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Jacqueline Fernandez moves court seeking to turn approver in a ₹200-crore money laundering **case involving Sukesh Chandrashekhar**. Court issues notice and seeks prosecution's response, P 13

British PM Keir Starmer expresses anger over not being informed that **former envoy to US Peter Mandelson**, who was sacked over ties to Jeffrey Epstein, **had failed security vetting** before being handed the job, P 17

Myanmar's coup-ousted and detained democratic leader **Aung San Suu Kyi has her sentence reduced** by one-sixth as part of a mass amnesty. Suu Kyi is currently **serving a 27-year sentence**, P 17

Netflix co-founder and **chairman Reed Hastings will step down** from OTT's board of directors in June when his term expires. Hastings had served as Netflix's CEO for more than 20 years until 2023, P 17

'British citizen': HC orders FIR against Rahul

The Lucknow bench of Allahabad HC Friday directed UP police to file an FIR against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi for allegedly concealing British citizenship. The petitioner, a BJP worker from Karnataka, has alleged that Rahul voluntarily declared his nationality as British while incorporating a company in the UK in 2003. P 13

1st India-China talks held under SCO post Ladakh

India and China held their first Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) bilateral talks on April 16-17. Govt said the two sides agreed to consolidate mutual cooperation in SCO matters. Both have also continued to enhance cooperation in multilateral forums, like Brics, after resolving the military standoff in eastern Ladakh in 2024. TNN

Bescom consumers to pay more for 1 yr

Bescom will levy an additional 56 paise per unit from May 2026 to April 2027 to offset the Rs 2,803 crore losses it has incurred from rising power costs. The revision will not impact houses covered under Gruha Jyothi scheme. P 2

K'taka brings strict SOPs for trekking

Karnataka Friday issued new trekking rules after back-to-back incidents of missing trekkers. Only 150 trekkers in groups of 10 would be allowed in a day. Violation of rules would result in blacklisting. P 6

Oppn kills bill in LS, it's NDA govt's first legislative defeat

Bill On Women's Quota Falls Short Of 2/3rds Vote; 2 Linked Bills Shelved

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New Delhi: A united opposition on Friday spurned PM Narendra Modi's last-minute appeal for a "conscience vote" and home minister Amit Shah's offer to write into the women's reservation bill that Lok Sabha seats in all states will go up by 50% to inflict on govt its first legislative defeat in 12 years, with the proposed law failing to get the required two-thirds vote in the House.

Opposition parties — which had alleged that the bill promising women's quota from 2029 was a ploy to cut the south's representation in LS, redraw the political map to BJP's advantage and delay caste enumeration — remained unpersuaded by Shah's assertions that the weight of southern states in LS will marginally go up under the proposed formula and that govt was committed to conducting caste count.

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill received 298 votes in support and 230 against. It needed at least 352 votes in favour from the members present in the House for passage. With the centrepiece bill falling through, parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said two other bills "intrinsically" linked to the main proposal, including one on delimitation, would be withdrawn.

FULL COVERAGE: P 14

HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY LOST: GOVT; NEFARIOUS BID: OPPN

"Oppn loses historic opportunity to honour women. We will not rest till we ensure the country's women get reservation in legislatures

—**Kiren Rijiju** | Parl affairs minister

"I would say to all the members of Parliament... Keeping in mind your mother, sister, daughter, wife at your home, listen to your conscience... women of the country will become even more empowered... democracy will become even more empowered

—**PM Modi,** in letter to MPs

"They (oppn) chose politics over progress. Their resistance (to the amendment bill) has exposed exactly whose interests they truly serve

—**Devendra Fadnavis** Maharashtra CM

"The nefarious and mischievous attempt of the PM and HM to link their dangerous delimitation proposals to women's reservation (that had already been settled) has been decisively defeated in the Lok Sabha

—**Jairam Ramesh** | Cong

"BJP brought the delimitation bill while keeping women's reservation bill in the front. It is trying to increase the number of seats in Lok Sabha to nearly 850... It will break the country into pieces

—**Mamata Banerjee** West Bengal CM

"Tamil Nadu defeats Delhi. On April 23, we will defeat Delhi's arrogance, together with slaves who support that arrogance

—**MK Stalin** Tamil Nadu CM

DEFEATED | Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which proposes increasing Lok Sabha strength to 850 and enabling immediate delimitation for 33% women's quota using 2011 Census data

2023 QUOTA ACT IN FORCE | Women's Reservation Act, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (106th Constitutional Amendment)) for 33% quota for women, linked to first Census post-enactment and subsequent delimitation. **Notified in Gazette on April 16, 2026**

Delimitation needed to preserve one vote, one value: Shah in LS

New Delhi: Home minister Amit Shah on Friday stoutly defended the delimitation proposal, saying the existing freeze on the number of Lok Sabha seats since 1976 violated the constitutional principle of "one person, one vote, one value", **reports Kumar Rakesh**. The number of electors in many seats had swelled so much that one MP could not do justice to his seat, he said.

He also debunked the allegation that the women's reservation bill was a ploy to delay caste count. "PM Modi could foresee that doubts would be created, and therefore, got the Union Cabinet to approve caste census. The enumeration exercise this time will have a column for caste," he said.

▶ 'Reflect on conscience', P 14 ▶'Will go by collective sense of Parl', P 14

Rahul: Govt wants to change electoral map, fears losing power

New Delhi: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the constitutional amendment bill on delimitation is an attempt by BJP to change the electoral map of India in the guise of women's reservation in legislatures because the governing party feared losing power.

Calling it an anti-national act, he said there is a bid to deny rights to OBCs and take away representation from southern and north-eastern states. It is only meant to bypass the caste census, which, the LoP said, would expose the brutal and unforgiving treatment of OBCs, Dalits, minorities and women. TNN

▶ BJP COUNTERS RAHUL ON 'APR 16', P 14

▶ 'Trying to rejig political map, P 14

Cong MLA Kulkarni gets life term for '16 murder, faces disqualification

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A court Friday sentenced Dharwad Rural MLA and former Congress minister **Vinay Kulkarni** to life imprisonment for the 2016 murder of BJP worker Yogesh Gowda in Dharwad.

A serving lawmaker sentenced to jail for two or more years faces immediate disqualification from the House. Kulkarni is set to lose membership of state legislative assembly.

The court sentenced 16 other accused to life imprisonment. It directed Kulkarni to pay Rs 16 lakh compensation to Gowda's three daughters and a son. The court Wednesday held all 17 accused guilty of plotting and murdering Gowda.

Deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar, who is also KPCC president, called the case a political conspiracy against Kulkarni. He accused the then BJP govt of handing over the case to CBI just when state police were filing closure report. CBI probed the case and filed a chargesheet.

FULL COVERAGE: P 4

▶'He's done no wrong', P 4

MAY FILE APPEAL

- Dy CM Shivakumar backs Kulkarni, says he 'need not lose faith in judiciary as **there are higher courts of law where he will get justice**'
- **Kulkarni's team pleads for leniency** citing good record as MLA & minister, **but court upholds severity of the crime**
- Court directs the Dharwad Rural MLA to pay **₹16 lakh compensation to the victim's three daughters and a son**

Use preventive detention against sand mafia: SC

New Delhi: Supreme Court has expressed concern over powerful sand mafias operating in the country and said states were virtually abdicating their constitutional responsibility to tackle the menace, **reports Amit Anand Choudhary**. Preventive detention could be invoked against the mafia, the apex court said.

The court flagged institutional failure citing escalating environmental degradation and govt officials' by mafia. Pointing to the reluctance of states to act against sand mafia, SC said it would be forced to deploy paramilitary forces in those areas and also impose a complete ban on sand mining in these states.

▶Disturbing pattern, P 13

IN THE COURTS

- **Rights & wrongs of modes of idol worship — central to Hinduism—judicially indeterminable,** Sabarimala priest tells SC | P 11
- UP court **convicts woman for falsely accusing her husband of raping their daughter,** leading to his incarceration in '19 | P 11
- 'It's AI-generated': TMC ex-MLA **Humayun Kabir moves HC, seeks probe into clip of him** 'saying' he took money from BJP to mislead Muslims | P 15

K'taka HC junks grading system for SSLC 3rd language paper

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court has instructed state govt to evaluate the recently concluded SSLC exams as per the existing rules. The directive brings relief to students who had challenged govt's proposal—after conclusion of exams—to grade third language paper.

Justice E S Indiresh issued this directive Thursday while disposing of a petition filed by three SSLC students. The students had expressed concerns over recent remarks by primary and secondary education minister Madhu Bangarappa about introducing a grading system for evaluation of third language paper. TNN

▶Can't change midway, P 5

4 kids among 9 burnt to death in car-bus crash in Yadgir dist

Yadgir: Nine members of a family, including four children, were burnt to death after their car collided with a private bus and caught fire in Yadgir district's Surpur taluk on Bidar-Sriranga-patna highway Friday.

The accident occurred around 9.45am when the car, an SUV, attempted to overtake another vehicle and got wedged between it and the bus before the collision. The impact was so severe that both the SUV and the bus were completely gutted in the blaze. All 20 bus passengers managed to escape in time.

Police said 10 people were travelling in the SUV.

▶6 died on the spot, P 4

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SWEAT, STRENGTH AND SOLIDARITY: How friendship fuels HYROX triumphs

Mini.Thomas@timesofindia.com

For Padmini Ambatipudi and Amitha Netla, the biggest takeaway from HYROX is that human connections can make even the most gruelling journey as enjoyable as a joy ride.

The much-hyped indoor fitness competition that includes eight km of running and eight functional exercises was indeed a test of endurance and patience for the duo who competed in the 50-54 age category as a team, but they enjoyed every bit of it and even won 3rd prize. "We complemented each other. I'm into running while Padmini is a regular at the gym. When I struggled with some exercises, Padmini, 54, stepped in, and while running, I slowed to match Padmini's pace," recalls Amitha, 49, a soft skills trainer in the Judicial Academy, adding the chemistry and camaraderie kept them going, enabling them to cross the finish line in two hours 17 minutes.

Amitha and Padmini attended about six simulation sessions, covering roughly 25-40% of the event in coached, technique corrected workouts. "We stayed highly consistent — exercising daily even during travel or family functions — journaling workouts, sharing updates, and setting challenges to build endurance," says Padmini, a former IT professional.

DYNAMIC DUO: Diganta Chakraborty, a corporate IT professional, and his wife Rachna, a fitness and nutrition coach, trained hard for HYROX, which was on their bucket list for a while. The 54-year-old couple prepped for the event with high-intensity activities like running, endurance and strength workouts

Making The impossible Possible

Participants trained hard for the event with some optimising their performance by joining group classes at fitness centres dedicated to HYROX training.

"Around 120 athletes trained at our studio and all of them crossed the finishing line and that too with good timing," says Pavan Chavan, the head coach at 6262 Fitness located in HSR Layout. "We helped them with structured sessions: strength workouts on Monday, Wednesday and Friday that mimicked race movements to build muscle memory, a Tuesday session that used all event stations/equipment to give a race-like feel, and weekend coach-led simulations that included a full race," says Pavan. These sessions helped participants understand each station and improve their performance.

Tanya Arora from Bengaluru sustained a physical injury and managed only one practice session before the event, but she still completed the race, demonstrating remarkable resilience.

Vitamin F

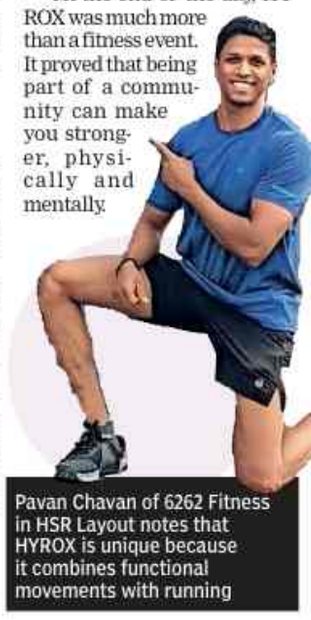
Four months ago, Ritesh Varma, who weighed 102 kg, had little or no interest in marathons or HYROX. Looking back, he says joining a fitness community and watching people work out has transformed him inside out and has helped him lose 15 kg. "A community that shows up every day, sweating in real time, makes it impossible for you to stay on the couch. You can't unsee it. You just lace up," smiles the 33-year-old, who looks forward to catching up with his newfound friends every day.

The Road To Success

Eshaan Kattepur, a first-year undergraduate student at Azim Premji University, believes in the power of two. Along with his childhood friend, Abraham Jacob, he won 2nd place in the 16-24 age category. "We trained 4-5 days a week, and did simple exercises. We were consistent and I think that matters a lot," he says. Eshaan and Abraham completed HYROX in one hour 11 minutes.

The race was not easy. "It required a lot of commitment and discipline. Many athletes participated in the event with their friends and colleagues,' says Pooja Rajpal, head judge at SkiErg station at the event, adding winners were chosen based on timing.

At the end of the day, HYROX was much more than a fitness event. It proved that being part of a community can make you stronger, physically and mentally.



Pavan Chavan of 6262 Fitness in HSR Layout notes that HYROX is unique because it combines functional movements with running

HYROX, an international competitive fitness event held at Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC) last week, brought together a broad mix of participants and spectators around a shared fitness experience. The event saw around 8,000 athletes and over 12,000 spectators

ENDORPHIN GLOW: Shreya Bhardwaj, 30, a dentist-turned-operations-and-business-strategy-specialist, debuted in the women's doubles category with her friend Snigdha Mishra, a 27-year-old lawyer

Women of Steel

The hardest stations for **Padmini** and **Amitha** were burpee broad jumps and squats. Initially, they couldn't do even five burpees continuously but managed to do around 90 burpee broad jumps during HYROX. The final station, where they did around 100 squats after eight km of running, was a real killer. "Endurance is as much mental as it is physical," says Amitha.

WHAT IS HYROX

- It is a fitness competition that blends endurance running with functional strength workouts

HOW IT WORKS

- 8 x 1 km runs
- After each run, you complete one workout station

THE 8 STATIONS

SkiErg – Pulling repeatedly through set resistance for 1000m on SkiErg machine

Sled Push – Push the weighted sled forward for 12.5m x 4 (50m)

Sled Pull – Pulling weighted sled using rope for 12.5m x 4 (50m)

Burpee Broad Jumps – Burpee & jump forward, repeat for 80m

Rowing – Working the rowing machine at set resistance for distance of 1000m

Farmer's Carry – Walk carrying heavy weights in both hands for 200m

Sandbag Lunges – Walking lunges with weighted sandbag for 100m

Wall Balls – 100 Squat & throw ball to target height of - **Men** | 10 ft (≈ 3.05 m) **Women** | 9 ft (≈ 2.75 m)

LEARN SPOKEN KANNADA

New words for this week

Image credit: AI

WORDS TABLE

Kannada	English
viLaasa	address
yaavudaadru	any
puraave	proof
yaarella	who all

Lesson 6 Part C

SINGULAR/PLURAL

Singular	Plural
varsha	varSHagaLu
raita	raitaru
tingaLu	tingaLugaLu

Conversation between a police constable and a resident regarding passport verification.

Step	Speaker	Conversation in Kannada	Conversation in English
1	Police	namaskaara, Radha andare neevE naa?	Hello, are you Mrs Radha?
2	Resident	howdu myaDam	Yes, madam.
3	Police	Passport verification ge bandiddeeni.	I have come for your passport verification.
4	Resident	sari myaDam, banni.	Sure, madam. Please come in.
5	Police	eSHTu varSHadinda neevu illi/ee viLaasadalli iddeeri/ vaasavaagiddeeri/ vaasisuttaa iddeeri?	How long have you been living here?
6	Resident	naanu aidu varSHa aaru tingaLininda illi vaasavaagiddeeni	I have been living here for the last five years and six months.
7	Police	idu nimma swanta mane naa? athava baaDige mane naa?	Is this your own house or a rented one?
8	Resident	idu nanna swanta mane myaDam	It is my own house, madam.
9	Police	matte yaarella nimma jote iruttaare?	Who else lives with you?
10	Resident	nanna gaNDa, nanna appa amma joteyalli irtaare	My husband, father and mother live with me.
11	Police	nimma moola Aadhar card mattu SSLC Marks Card tOrisi	Please show your original Aadhaar card and SSLC marks card.
12	Resident	tagoLLi myaDam	Take these, madam.
13	Police	neevu Enu kelasa maaDteeri?	What is your occupation?
14	Resident	naanu obbaraita myaDam	I am a farmer, madam.
17	Police	sari, verification aaytu. puraave ge photo tegiri. nimage SMS baruttE	Your verification is complete. I will click a photo for proof. You will receive an SMS.
18	Resident	dhanyavaadagaLu myaDam	Thank you, madam.

Exercise

Read out the below sentences in Kannada, record your voice and upload the recordings by scanning the QR code below by April 12. Top three submissions will be recognised.

1. Can you write your full address ?
2. I am not living here.
3. Do you have your Aadhar card?
4. Can you click a photo of your parents and send it to me?
5. Do you have address proof document with you?

QR code for Lesson 6C audio file

Answer keys for previous lesson (Lesson 6B)

Section 1: Match the following

1-e, 2-a, 3-h, 4-c, 5-i, 6-b, 7-f, 8-g, 9-d

Winners of the previous contest

Shrilakshmi Priya

Dr K S Agarwal

Krishna Chander R

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TIMES CITY

Bescom takes ₹2.8k-cr hit, power bills to rise for 1 yr

Niranjan.Kaggere @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: With Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) incurring losses of Rs 2,803 crore during 2024-25 due to rising power cost, power consumers across its eight districts will have to pay 56 paise more per unit for a one-year period starting May 2026. The move, approved by Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC), will further strain household budgets.

Sources told **TOI** the charges are pegged to consumers' electricity usage in 2024-25.

The revised power tariff will come into effect from the first meter reading after May 1, 2026, and continue until April 30, 2027, ensuring the financial burden is spread out evenly over a year.

Revisions to not affect homes under Gruha Jyothi

Officials clarified that the revision will not impact houses covered under Gruha Jyothi scheme receiving zero-payment bills. Consumers exceeding their monthly free unit limit will have to pay the revised charges along with their regular bills.

Sources said the order was based on Bescom's annual performance review, submitted in Nov 2025. It said financial strain was driven by rising power purchase costs and surges in demand. Bescom argued that a major contributor to the shortfall was the restructuring of domestic tariffs.

"While a uniform rate of Rs 5.9 per unit was introduced replacing the slab system, it led to revenue loss from high-consuming households. Nearly 65% domestic consumers fall in the above-100-unit-consumption category. Reduction from Rs 7 to Rs 5.9 per unit led to losses of Rs 1,213 crore, accounting for 43% of the total deficit," Bescom informed KERC.

The situation was aggravated by the decision to reduce energy charges for industrial and commercial consumers by an average of 75 paise per unit. Plus, poor rainfall during 2024-25 led to a surge in electricity consumption for irrigation pumps, exceeding approved levels by 2,500 million units.

As this segment is heavily subsidised, the increased usage deepened Bescom's financial burden. "Increased allocation of thermal energy — more expensive than hydro and renewable sources — too impacted revenues," a Bescom engineer said.

KERC has said that the deficit must be recovered strictly from consumers who were active during 2024-25.

Mysuru, Hubballi, Kalaburagi consumers to receive refund

While Bescom consumers have to pay more, their counterparts in Mysuru, Hubballi and Kalaburagi zones are welcoming refunds, though marginal. These refunds will be calculated based on each consumer's actual electricity usage during 2024-25.

KERC has directed escoms to refund excess charges collected during 2024-25. Mescom (Mangaluru) consumers will receive a refund of 9 paise per unit,

Hubballi and Kalaburagi consumers will get 10 paise per unit each. The highest refund will be reaped by Mysuru zone consumers at 15 paise per unit.

North city corpn seeks protection in face of protest

Bengaluru: In a letter to the inspector at Pulikeshinagar police station, the assistant executive engineer for Maruthiseva Nagar subdivision of Bengaluru North City Corporation has sought police protection at Jeevanahalli sports ground for the installation of an artificial turf. The letter mentions that a few residents around the ground have been obstructing the work.

The artificial turf is being installed using CSR funds from Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Ltd. **TOI** had reported on the resistance put up by locals, who called on Sarvagnanagar MLA KJ George and Bangalore Central MP PC Mohan in Nov last year with two concerns: conversion of the natural ground to artificial turf, and possible restrictions on access to the ground. "Around Rs 8 crore have already been spent on renovation. The MoU for CSR funds was signed about 10 days back, and the work has begun. Citizens are unable to stop this as it is backed by the MLA," N Satish Kumar, a resident, said. TNN

No local leadership, no accountability: B'lureans push back against poll delay

Sanjay.Murty @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Citizens and civic activists have taken exception to the possibility that the state govt could place an affidavit before the apex court seeking more time to conduct civic polls in the city.

The Supreme Court has placed a deadline of June 30 for elections to the five city corporations under Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA). However, the govt might be approaching the court to extend the deadline, citing Census 2027.

Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party founder and general secretary Srikanth Narasimhan said the top court had already extended an earlier deadline and specified that this would be the "final indulgence" on this matter. "Be it BJP earlier or Congress now, they have found creative ways over the past six years to keep delaying these elections," he said, adding that it is now up to the judiciary to uphold the Indian Constitution.

Aspirants looking to contest the upcoming polls feel the elections cannot be delayed as the city is already witnessing poor infrastructure and endless grievances. Naveen Iyer, a civic leader and aspiring corporator from Rajajinagar, said, "We are already witnessing the consequences of not having an elected corporator in our wards. Day by day, civic issues are increasing with no direct accountability. While administrative responsibilities like census are important, they should not come at the cost of democratic processes. Elections are the backbone of grassroots governance, and any delay weakens the connection between people and administration."

Addressing challenges

Access to local elected representatives is another point that citizens are raising. Trade activist Sajjan Raj Mehta said: "We cannot contact MLAs and MPs for civic issues. It is the elected corporator who needs to respond to such problems. Responsive and accountable local leadership will play a key role in addressing the city's pressing challenges and improving citizen welfare."

He also highlighted the recent comparison of Bengaluru with cities like Hyderabad. "The city may be lagging behind due to collapsing infrastructure. Newly elected corporators and mayors will help the city grow as they will have to work efficiently to prove themselves," he added.

GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao declined to comment on the matter, saying that it would be addressed directly by govt.

With bldgs at risk of falling, residents live in fear

Anush.S@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Barely 500 metres away from KR Pura railway station, several residents live in constant fear of losing their life and property. The residential layout bordering the railway line had part of its basement eroded Tuesday, putting lives at risk.

NEAR KR PURA STN

According to local residents, the partial collapse occurred after a concrete retaining wall was constructed a week ago. The wall was built as part of the quadrupling works along the KR Pura-Byappanahalli line, a key project to ease rail congestion in the city. Along with residential buildings, the stretch, part of NR Layout in Doorvani Nagar, also houses Anugraha AG church, which hosts Sunday masses with 50 families. "A lot of children play around in this area and devotees, including young and the elderly, come here Sundays to participate in the holy mass. Now, the situation is risky as the platform can erode any time," said Goodfy Solvin, treasurer of the church.

"Two days ago I was standing here," Solvin explained while pointing at a pit which used to be a well-concreted platform till a few days ago. The residents lodged a complaint with South Western Railway (SWR) Tuesday.

On Wednesday, engineers from SWR visited the site and promised to resolve the issue. Though parts of the area have been barricaded, cracks were visible near the residential buildings during a reality check by **TOI**. Vehicles travelling by the area continue to create relatively high vibrations in the ground.

A tree that was removed during the process also contributed to the life-threatening situation. "When they (SWR) removed it, the roots ran deep into the basements of our houses. They visited the spot but till today (Thursday) nothing has been done, nor a fixed timeline has been assured to sort out the issue," said Venkatesh S, a resident.

TOI

ON THE BRINK: Residents say the partial collapse occurred after a concrete retaining wall was constructed a week ago along KR Pura-Byappanahalli line

> There is adequate distance between the retaining wall and the residential buildings. The wall will be raised above road level to safeguard the road and nearby houses. The work is being planned & will be completed within a week
>
> **Official** | SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Retaining wall height

Venkatesh also said once the issue is sorted, the retaining wall should be raised a few feet higher above the platform level. "Right now, the wall is at a lower height than the road, a lot of children roam around this area especially during the church days. There is a risk of them falling into the railway track. On the opposite side, the wall is built higher, but the residential area has been exposed," he added.

SWR, however, said the safety of the residential buildings have been taken care of. "There is adequate distance between the retaining wall and the residential buildings. The wall will be raised above road level to safeguard the road and nearby houses. The work is being planned and will be completed within a week," an official said.

Citizens seek extended park hours to beat summer heat

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: As the city grapples with record-breaking temperatures, a coalition of residents and climate advocates has petitioned for the reinstatement of extended park hours to combat a growing public health crisis.

City-based NGO Heat Watch Foundation and volunteer group, Indian Ploggers Army, submitted a formal request to Jayanagar MLA CK Ramamurthy Wednesday, urging the govt to reverse a Dec 2025 decision that shuttered south Bengaluru parks during the hottest hours of the day. Despite a 2024 BBMP mandate to keep parks open from 5am to 10pm, the representation claims many local green spaces have reverted to restricted schedules, closing gates from 11am to 4pm.

The representation includes signatures of over 70 residents, environmentalists and climate advocates from south Bengaluru. Field observations conducted by the group claim these closures have pushed gig workers, street vendors, and delivery partners into inadequate spaces like building overhangs or narrow strips of pavement outside of locked park gates.

Dialysis unit at Vanivilas hosp

Bengaluru: A dialysis unit was launched at Vanivilas Hospital, the state-run maternity centre, Tuesday. The facility will benefit pregnant women, particularly those from economically weaker sections. Until now, patients from Vanivilas were referred to other hospitals for dialysis.

Dr Savitha C, medical superintendent, said: "Being a govt maternity hospital, we manage a high volume of high-risk pregnancies, often complicated by conditions like acute kidney injury. The availability of an in-house dialysis unit is critical in such emergencies." TNN

OPENS TODAY

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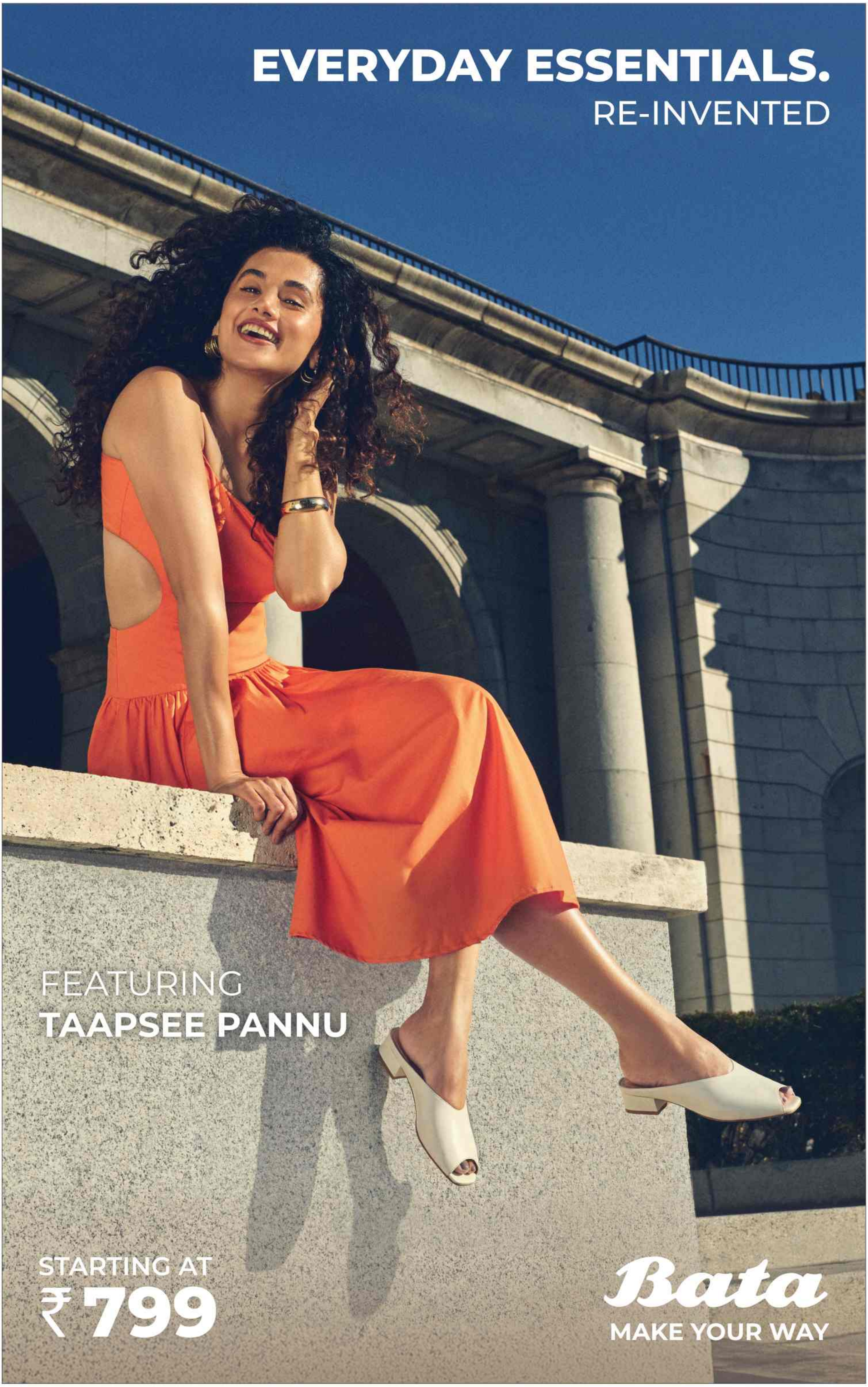
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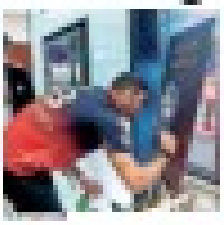
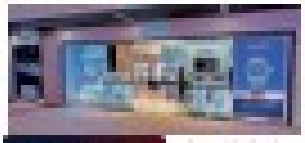
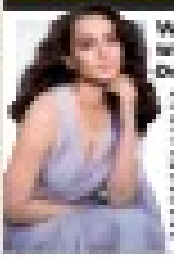




Singer Chinmayi arrested after teen found dead in his car

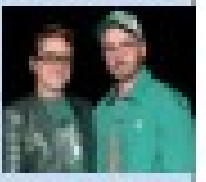
WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY



Women are working double with children: Ranganathan backs Deepika's 8-hour shift demand

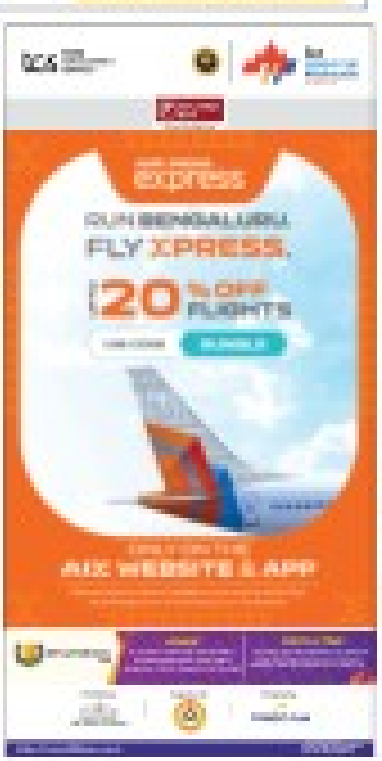
Main accused, two others arrested by TN Cyber Crime in Jana Nayagan leak case

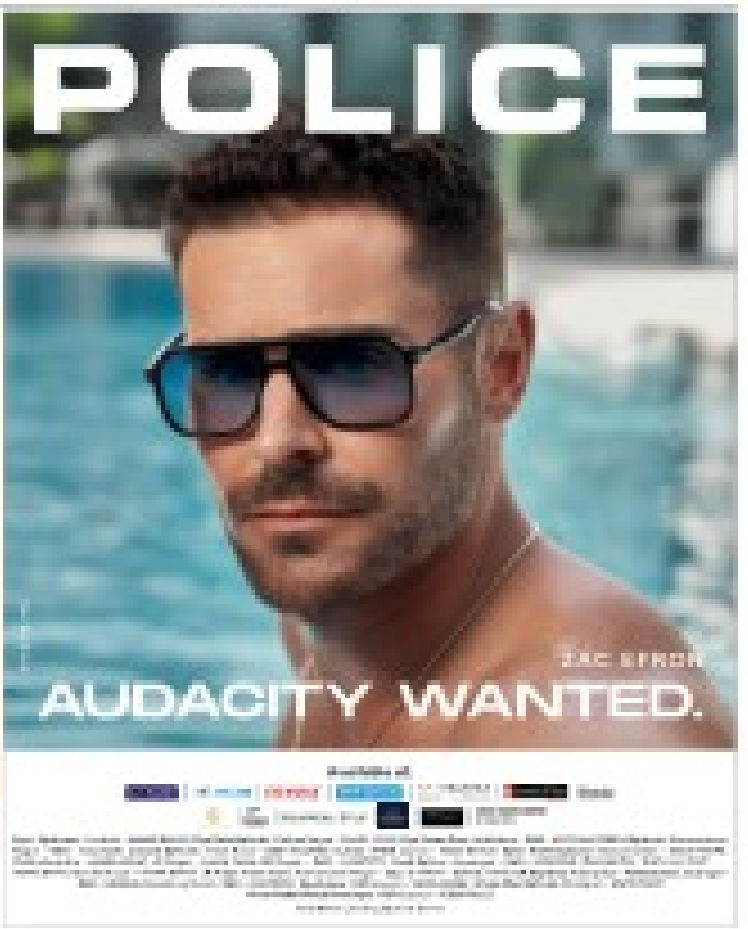
Avengers: Doomsday trailer revealed at CinemaCon 2026



Tublu calling Trilokeswar, Bablu just left the room

POV





Kulkarni to be disqualified from legislative assembly

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Congress MLA **Vinay Kulkarni**, sentenced to life imprisonment in connection with the murder of his political rival Yogeshgouda Gowda, faces immediate disqualification from the legislative assembly under the Representation of the People Act, which mandates the removal of any elected representative sentenced to two or more years of imprisonment.

A notification to this effect is expected shortly. Kulkarni's exit, however, would not impact the political arithmetic in the state with the ruling Congress way ahead of the magic number required for a majority in the assembly.

Gowda, a BJP zilla panchayat member, was brutally hacked to death at a gym in Dharwad on June 15, 2016. While local police initially handled the probe, the case was transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 2019 after political pressure and allegations that Kulkarni, then a district in-charge minister, orchestrated the killing to eliminate a rising political rival.

Special judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat, who passed the conviction order, said: "The accused Vinay Kulkarni, being a member of the legislative assembly and then district in-charge minister, entertained a grudge against his political opponent. He committed the offence, which is nothing but showing disgrace to a society that reposed faith in him."

TIMELINE OF MURDER CASE

- **June 15, 2016:** Yogesh Gowda murdered by assailants at his gym in Saptapur, Dharwad
- **2016-18:** Initial investigation by local police leads to the arrest of six individuals; Kulkarni's name not in the primary chargesheet
- **Sept 2019:** Following change in state govt, case officially handed over to CBI
- **Nov 5, 2020:** CBI arrests Kulkarni, naming him as main conspirator
- **Aug 11, 2021:** Supreme Court grants Kulkarni conditional bail, including ban on entering Dharwad district
- **June 7, 2025:** SC cancels his bail after evidence emerges of him attempting to influence/ tamper with witnesses
- **Feb 27, 2026:** Kulkarni granted bail again after all key witnesses are examined, with a directive to conclude the trial quickly
- **April 15, 2026:** Special judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat convicts Kulkarni and 16 others for murder and conspiracy; CBI takes all convicts into immediate custody
- **April 17, 2026:** Court pronounces the life imprisonment sentence for all 17 convicts
- **Others who were sentenced to life imprisonment:** Vikram Bellary, Kirthi Kumar Basavaraj Kurahatti, Sandeep Saudatti, Vinayaka Katagi, Mahabaleeshwar Hongal alias Muduka, Santhosh Saudatti, Dinesh M, Ashwath, Sunil, Nazeer Ahmed, Shahanawaz, Nuthan, Harshith, Chandrashekhar Indi, Vikas Kalburgi, and Channakeshava

DKS: I think he has done no wrong

▸ Continued from page 1

Santosh Gajanan Bhat, special judge of the special court for elected representatives, announced the quantum of punishment, two days after holding him and 16 others guilty for plotting and murdering Gowda, a member of Dharwad zilla panchayat.

Citing his own example of ED "cases foisted" on him, Shivakumar said, "Kulkarni has sworn on god that he has committed no wrong. I believe him. He needn't lose faith in the judiciary as there are higher courts of law where he will get justice."

In life sentences where courts do not specify 'life imprisonment till death', convicts have to spend 14 years in prison. Later, govt has discretionary power to release them on grounds of good conduct. Kulkarni's team pleaded leniency citing his family responsibilities and good record as minister. The court upheld the severity of the crime.

Q-City, To Come Up Near B'luru, Will Be Hub Of Startups & Labs

Chethan.Kumar@timesofindia.com

Karnataka is attempting to build what could become India's first large-scale deep-tech economy, with quantum technology at its core. The state's roadmap, released Wednesday, pegs the opportunity at $20 billion in economic value and more than 10,000 high-skilled jobs by 2035.

What sets this push apart is its focus on execution. Backed by a Rs 1,000-crore state mission, the plan lays out how quantum technologies will be designed, built, and sold. The emphasis is on creating an end-to-end ecosystem, from labs and startups to fabrication and exports, rather than allowing breakthroughs to remain confined to academic institutions.

TOI Explains

From Lab To Real World

For years, quantum research in India has been led by academic institutions, with limited commercial spillover. Karnataka's approach aims to change that by building a structured pathway from discovery to deployment. A proposed hub, Q-City near Bengaluru, is expected to anchor this effort by bringing together research labs, startups, manufacturing units, and global companies.

The goal is to shorten the time it takes for ideas to move from lab prototypes to real-world applications. This includes creating shared infrastructure for fabrication, testing, and system integration, allowing companies to scale without depending heavily on overseas facilities.

Professionals In The Pipeline

The economic ambition rests heavily on talent. Karnataka plans to create a workforce of over 10,000 quantum-ready professionals, supported by a steady pipeline of researchers, engineers, and industry specialists. This includes funding around 150 PhD scholars each year, while expanding quantum education into colleges across the state. The jobs expected to emerge will be specialised, ranging from quantum hardware engineering and materials science to software, cryptography, and advanced manufacturing. Unlike traditional IT roles, these positions sit at the intersection of physics, engineering, and computing.

Wide Range Of Applications

The roadmap focuses on four core areas: quantum computing, communication, sensing, and materials. Together, these technologies are expected to feed into sectors such as healthcare, cybersecurity, agriculture, and logistics.

For instance, quantum computing could accelerate drug discovery and optimisation problems, while quantum communication promises highly secure data transmission. Quantum sensing, meanwhile, has applications in precision measurement, from medical diagnostics to environmental monitoring.

Industry From Science

The state is also looking to support over 100 quantum startups and generate 100-plus patents, backed by a planned venture fund and industry partnerships. Large firms and multinational companies are expected to play a role in bridging research and commercial deployment.

By 2035, Karnataka aims not just to develop quantum technologies, but to export them, positioning itself as a global hub. The broader objective is to capture a meaningful share of the global market while building a domestic deep-tech manufacturing base.

Karnataka's quantum push is ultimately an economic play. If it succeeds, it could replicate the IT sector's trajectory — turning early research strength into jobs, companies, and exports, but this time in a far more complex and strategic technology domain.

Why K'taka Is Betting On $20bn Quantum Economy

KEY NUMBERS

- $20 billion projected quantum economy
- ₹1,000 cr state investment
- 10,000+ jobs targeted
- 150 PhDs to be funded per year
- 100+ startups & patents expected

4 Pillars Of The Plan

- **Talent & skilling:** 10,000+ quantum professionals
- **Research & tech:** From 100-qubit to scalable systems
- **Infrastructure:** Research park, fabline, hardware park
- **Industry & business:** 100+ startups, 100+ patents

Phased Rollout (2025–35)

- **Phase I (0–2 years) |** Foundation, policy, infrastructure setup
- **Phase II (3+ years) |** Operationalisation, Q-City launch, early use-cases
- **Phase III (4+ years) |** Manufacturing scale-up, 5,000+ jobs
- **Phase IV (6–10 years) |** Exports, 100+ companies, 10,000+ jobs

Hub-and-Spoke Model

- **Bengaluru as the core hub:** research, hardware, global partnerships
- **Regional spokes:** Mysuru, Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru and others
- **Role of spokes:** Application development, testing, skilling, local industry use-cases
- **Linked through digital backbone:** Quantum-as-a-Service (QaaS) access across the state
- **Aim:** Create jobs, talent & infrastructure beyond Bengaluru while staying connected to a central innovation hub

Suspect-turned-approver's testimony helped case

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Bengaluru: The case, which Dharwad police attributed to a property dispute after arresting five men, was re-investigated by CBI some three years after the gruesome incident.

Special public prosecutor Shivananda Perla, said, "We had concrete evidence like CCTV footage showing most of the accused persons running outside the gym holding weapons, call detail records of Vinay Kulkarni and Basavaraj Muttagi, etc, that helped us in building the case. Also, a week before the murder, Kulkarni had ferociously fought with Yogesh Gowda during a meet and issued dire threats."

"The approver's statement explained the roles of everyone, including Kulkarni, in this case. CDR showing long-duration calls made between him and Kulkarni also strengthened the chargesheet," he said.

"Right from the beginning, Kulkarni tried to derail the case. First, taking help from Dharwad police, he projected it as a murder over property dispute. To prove this, Kulkarni even prepared documents of the lands that were close to the houses of Gowda and Muttagi. However, when CBI took over the case, all his plans toppled."

Son will fulfil dad's dream of model village: Victim's wife

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: "My in-laws (Yogesh's parents) and my family had spurned us as we got married without their consent. Ours was a love marriage, opposed by both sides. Still, we lived on our own," says Mallamma Gowda, who was left with four children to care for when Yogesh Gowda was murdered in 2016.

She recalled that her husband was a visionary who wanted to serve society. "Yogesh dreamt of a model village, where youths would be educated, there would be no drinking water problem, and above all, there would be modern houses, without tiles for a roof," she said.

"He would host mass marriages, sponsor festivals, and fund poor students. When he was killed, he had a Rs 28-lakh loan, which he had taken for social service. The creditors never insisted on repayment. I somehow managed to repay part of the loan. Now, my son, who is a college student, will fulfil his father's dream of a model village," she said.

Akkamahadevi, Yogesh's sister thanked the court for providing justice.

A TIMELINE OF JAILED NETAS

From mining to murder and money trails, Karnataka politics has seen waves of arrests, with several legislators spending time in jail over the past 15 years

2011–2015 | MINING & LAND SCANDALS

GALI JANARDHANA REDDY

- Obulapuram illegal mining case
- **Jail time:** Over 3 years (2011–2015); later convicted and sentenced

SATISH SAIL

- Belekeri port illegal ore export
- **Jail time:** Custody in 2013–14; later convicted (2024)

ANAND SINGH

- Illegal mining, forest encroachment
- **Jail time:** Arrested in 2015; spent time in custody

B NAGENDRA

- Illegal mining case
- **Jail time:** Custody in 2013–14; attended Assembly from jail

BS YEDIYURAPPA

- Illegal land denotification (corruption in land scams linked to mining interests)
- **Jail time:** Arrested & remanded till Oct 22, 2011 (about 10–15 days initially); later bail, ongoing cases into 2025

2016–2020 | Political crime & financial probes

DK SHIVAKUMAR

- Money-laundering case
- **Jail time:** Around 50 days in 2019

R ROSHAN BAIG

- IMA ponzi scam
- **Jail time:** Arrested in 2019 (custody)

2021–2026 | Convictions & high-profile cases

PRAJWAL REVANNA

- Sexual assault cases
- **Jail time:** Arrested (2024); later convicted and serving life sentence (2025)

NEHRU OLEKAR

- Corruption (misuse of funds)
- **Jail time:** Convicted; imprisoned

MP KUMARASWAMY

- Cheque bounce case
- **Jail time:** Convicted; imprisoned

How They Landed In Jail

- **Mining & land scams:** Biggest driver, especially during 2011–2015
- **Corruption & financial crimes:** Money laundering, fund misuse, fraud
- **Violent crimes:** Murder, assault, political violence
- **Sexual offences:** Fewer in number, but recent cases high profile

By The Numbers

- 15–20+ legislators/ministers jailed in ~15 years
- **Peak period:** 2011–2015 (mining crackdown)
- **Jail time range:** Days to several years
- **Convictions:** Fewer than arrests

Key Points

- Jail does not always mean conviction
- Many cases involve long undertrial custody
- Arrests often spike around major scandals
- Cases cut across political parties

Experts push for safe mental health guide

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: With hundreds of mental health apps offering limited information and leading users up a blind alley, key stakeholders have proposed introducing a repository of apps that provides simple, descriptive summaries relevant to Indian users and support informed decision-making.

Many apps have safety vulnerabilities and less than 10% of them have clear evidence backing their programmes. Hence, the creation of a repository was one of the key recommendations made Friday at the concluding session of a three-day national-level consultative meeting here. The meeting deliberated on 'Digital Technologies for Mental Health: Evolving Policy and Regulatory Recommendations for Safe Use'. It was convened by Nimhans-ICMR Centre for Advanced Research (CAR) on Digital Interventions for Mental Health Care in collaboration with SHUT Unit at Nimhans.

APP AND ABOUT

- Assess app credibility and understand privacy implications
- Treat apps as adjuncts rather than substitutes for other sources of help
- Stay alert to signs of continued distress or dependency
- Discuss app usage with healthcare providers

"The purpose of an end-user-friendly repository of mental health apps is to provide summaries of apps accessible to Indian users. This is not intended as a certification or approval mechanism. Rather, it's an informational resource presented in an easy-to-understand format," said Seema Mehrotra, professor, Nimhans-ICMR CAR.

She added, "Our systematic review of mobile apps available on Google Play Store and Apple App Store has highlighted both opportunities and concerns. Users face confusion due to the fragmented and crowded app ecosystem. We observed privacy and safety vulnerabilities, non-compliance with regulations, and limited evidence — only about 5-11% of apps have clear evidence backing them. There is also a lack of collaboration between mental health and technology experts. Many apps lack crisis support and escalation pathways. Another concern is the 'dead-end funnel', where users receive disclaimers instead of meaningful guidance for help-seeking."

She added that a pilot repository was already initiated through ICMR and Nimhans, based on a systematic review of publicly available apps, and currently includes around 350 apps. The repository is available at centrefordigitalmentalhealth.in/ and includes several filters such as platform, mental health concern, therapeutic approach, primary focus and cost.

ICMR-CAR made other recommendations, including the constitution of a high-powered committee to develop a national, tiered governance framework for mental health applications, and establishing a national directory for voluntary listing of apps that meet minimum requirements, similar to accreditation models. They proposed launching a digital mental health literacy course by Nimhans for mental health service providers, and disseminating stakeholder-specific guidelines after due approval from the health ministry.

SC upholds detention of Ranya Rao & aide

Rajiv.Kalkod@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The Supreme Court Thursday upheld the preventive detention of Kannada actor **Ranya Rao**, daughter of suspended senior IPS officer Ramachandra Rao, and her associate Sahil Sakariya Jain, a Ballari-based gold trader, under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (Cofeposa) Act.

According to sources, Ranya's detention under the Act ends midnight on April 22. A bench of Justice MM Sundresh and Justice N Kotiswar Singh dismissed the appeals filed by family members against a Dec 2025 Karnataka high court ruling. The apex court held that the authorities had followed all procedural safeguards and there was sufficient "subjective satisfaction" regarding the pair's involvement in a large-scale gold smuggling syndicate. The court specifically rejected technical arguments concerning the non-supply of electronic evidence (a pen drive) in prison and the denial of legal representation before the advisory board, noting that a detenu does not have an automatic right to legal aid unless the state is also represented by a legal practitioner.

6 died on spot: Eyewitnesses

▸ Continued from page 1

Nine of the 10 car occupants died, while Virat Raghavendra, son of deceased Shashikala, survived with fractures.

The victims were identified as Krishna Nayak, 52, his wife Anantha Kala Krishna Nayak, 45, Sharanappa, 36, his wife Nisarga, 30, their sons Siddhartha, 3, Advik, 5, daughter Srinidhi, one-and-a-half-year-old, Shashikala, 30, and her son Chandan, 8.

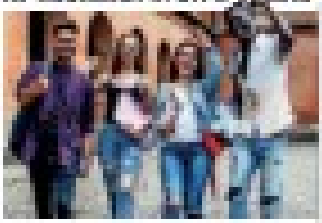
Krishna, a town panchayat member in Sirwar, was driving the car.

Witnesses said the car got stuck under the bus due to the impact. "We rushed to rescue the car passengers and dragged two children out of the burning vehicle. Six people died on the spot," they said.

A woman with a voice is, by definition, a strong woman —Melinda Gates

Tradition meets design in new festive gold coin offering

Pursue higher education in UK & Ireland



Australia names its first woman army chief

and joins a very-short global list

Australia has named its first woman army chief, but globally such appointments remain free and far between

Jennie Carignan at a glance

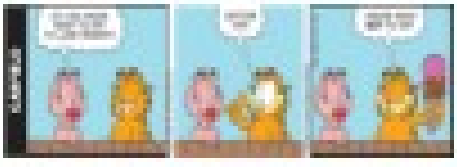
Lieutenant: First NATO member to appoint a woman as army chief

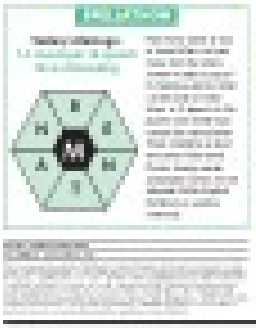
Australia marks a first in 105-year military history

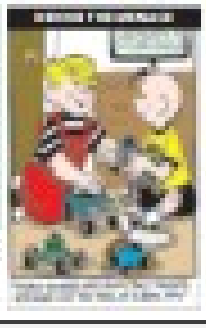
Wendy Ermanz at a glance

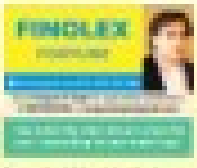
Canada: first woman to serve in the country's highest-ranking military post

LEISURE









CS to AI: Seat shuffle plan mooted for engg courses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Proposing a redistribution of seats in engineering courses under a "zero-sum" principle — which ensures no increase or decrease in total seats — an expert committee appointed by the state govt has recommended a recalibration of technical education according to industry demand.

The committee, headed by Prof S Sadagopan, former director of International Institute of Information Technology-Bangalore (IIIT-B), has proposed a nine-step annual rebalancing formula to redistribute seats across disciplines based on market demand, placement outcomes, and vacancy trends. It has called for curbing the unchecked surge in computer science (CS) engineering while nudging institutions to diversify into emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, and cybersecurity.

TOI reported on the govt's move to regulate the surge in demand for certain engineering courses in its edition dated Dec 17, 2025.

The committee has suggested capping seats across disciplines — limiting courses to a maximum of 900 seats and linking any expansion beyond 300 seats to strong accreditation. It has proposed a freeze on CS seats, along with a phased 17% reduction starting from the 2026-27 academic year. These seats will be reassigned to 'CORE+AI' branches. "Institutions with strong placement records will continue to sustain demand-driven seat allocations, while underperforming programmes will face gradual reductions triggered by persistent vacancy trends," the committee noted.

While 2026-27 will be treated as a "hold year," major adjustments are expected to begin from the 2027-28 academic cycle after analysing admission data.

"Any reduction of seats in one discipline must be offset by a corresponding increase in another, ensuring transparency and strict compliance with sanctioned capacity," the committee stated. Institutions exceeding seat thresholds, particularly in CS and related streams, will be required to submit restructuring plans for sub-branches such as AI/ML, data science, and cybersecurity, with phased accreditation targets.

MANDATORY PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

AI

The expert committee has recommended that the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) and private deemed universities integrate a CORE+AI curriculum across all engineering streams, embedding AI/ML as an analytical layer alongside core subjects. Mandatory project-based learning in every semester is expected to enhance employability, with a target to increase industry-ready graduates from 22,000 to over 75,000 annually by 2030. Additionally, institutions with vacancy rates exceeding 40% over two consecutive admission cycles will face reduced intake.

Cannot change rules of games midway: HC

▶ Continued from page 1

Justice Indiresh directed state govt to evaluate the language paper based on the rules in force at the time the examination notification for 2025–26 academic year was issued. He noted that the respondent-state cannot change the valuation procedure unless such changes were already supported by rules or circulars issued at the time of notification to conduct the exam.

The judge said it is a well-established legal principle that there shall not be any changes in the rules of the game midway, emphasising the need for adherence to guidelines or rules issued at the time of starting of the game. **TOI**'s repeated attempts to contact Madhu Bangarappa and additional chief secretary (school education and literacy) Rashmi Mahesh were unsuccessful.

No fear of H5N1, caution is key: Min

Bengaluru: As H5N1 avian influenza has been confirmed at a poultry training centre in Mathkur village in Hesaraghatta, health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said there is no need for panic as no human cases have been reported so far.

The confirmation of avian influenza was based on an April 14 report from NIHSAD, Bhopal. Authorities have initiated immediate containment measures in line with prescribed guidelines, Rao said. "The public has been advised to remain cautious and avoid contact with sick or dead birds," he said. TNN

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Vemula Bill: Equity panels to act as civil courts for campus bias cases

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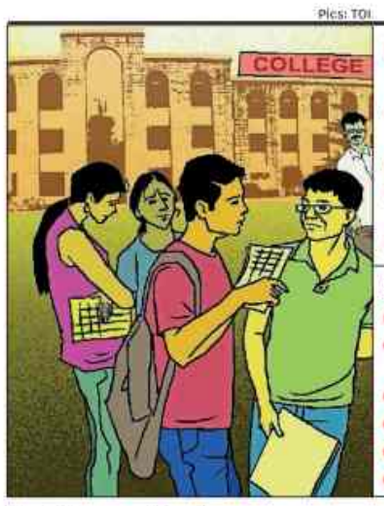

COMMITTEES AND THEIR SCOPE

How composition is proposed

- Two student members from SC/ST communities, including one woman
- Minimum two faculty or staff members
- One external member with a social work or legal background
- Chairperson from SC/ST community

Remedies they can recommend

- Administrative correction to remove harm
- Reasonable accommodation
- Monetary compensation
- Counselling support
- Any other necessary relief

Penalties they can impose

- Written warning or apology
- Good behaviour bond
- Community service
- Mandatory caste sensitisation workshops

Bengaluru: The proposed Rohith Vemula Bill approved by the state cabinet Thursday places equity committees (ECs) at the heart of its anti-caste discrimination framework, vesting them with wide-ranging powers that could decisively shape outcomes in campus harassment cases.

Under the Karnataka Rohith Vemula (Prevention of Discrimination, Exclusion or Injustice) (Right to Education and Dignity) Bill, these panels will function as the sole redressal authority within higher education institutions for caste-related complaints. Institutions are mandated to act on their recommendations within 30 days, effectively making the committees the final arbiters in such cases.

The bill empowers ECs to take suo motu cognisance of incidents, initiate inquiries, and determine penalties, including dismissal of staff or expulsion of students. From facilitating conciliation, if sought by the aggrieved person, to recommending strict disciplinary action, the committees are positioned to influence both justice delivery and institutional accountability.

They are also granted powers equivalent to those of a civil court while conducting inquiries. Proceedings and complaint details are protected from public disclosure, with penalties for violations. The structure of the committees draws from UGC equity guidelines but with key modifications. Each panel will have a minimum of seven members, with at least 80% from SC/ST communities. Members will have 1-3 year terms.

Explaining the rationale, IT-BT minister Priyank Kharge said the bill has been designed to withstand legal scrutiny.

"While the Centre fumbled with the UGC guidelines by adding all possible discriminations for other castes and communities, the Vemula bill is restricted to SC/ST communities," he said. He added that criminal provisions were consciously removed. "Our intent is to ensure that children do not have to step into police stations to file or face criminal action. It will have a negative impact and (the bill) has thus prescribed the equity committees as the redressal forum," he said.

On the composition, he noted that the initial proposal mandated full SC/ST representation. "The original draft had 100% from the same communities, which was reduced by the govt to give representation to other communities," he said.

The committees can recommend a range of remedies, including administrative changes, reasonable accommodation, monetary compensation, counselling support and other corrective measures. Penalties range from warnings and apologies to community service and mandatory sensitisation programmes.

Students found guilty may face suspension, withholding of results, debarment from exams or campus activities, and even expulsion. Faculty and staff could face adverse service records, denial of promotions, suspension or dismissal, along with salary deductions payable to the aggrieved party.

While welcoming the bill, the Campaign for Rohith Act flagged concerns over the absence of a direct route to approach the high court and what it termed a cumbersome appeals process against committee decisions. The forum has urged the govt to improve access to district courts and prescribe timelines for the disposal of appeals.

'Delhi did it, not me': DKS on action against Cong MLCs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar Friday rejected the allegations of internal conspiracy in the Congress' disciplinary action against three minority community functionaries, asserting that the decisions were taken by the party high command based on reports from AICC general secretaries.

Stating he had no personal role, Shivakumar, who is also KPCC president, underlined that party discipline was paramount and sought to allay concerns that the move could be seen as targeting Muslims or it could impact the party's vote base.

Congress first removed MLC K Abdul Jabbar as KPCC minority wing chief and later suspended him from the primary membership of the party. MLC Naseer Ahmed was relieved of his role as the chief minister's political secretary. Housing and minority welfare minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan was pulled up by chief minister Siddaramaiah for alleged anti-party activities during the recent Davanagere South bypoll. The action followed complaints from a section of Muslim leaders alleging that some party members worked against the official candidate of Congress.

"I don't have any personal involvement in this. Whatever decisions are taken are made by the party leadership. The party has its own reports. Decisions regarding MLAs or MLCs cannot be taken at the state level without instructions from Delhi. People may blame me, but I am not concerned. Everyone must function in accordance with party discipline," Shivakumar said.

Meanwhile, PWD minister Satish Jarkiholi Friday said he met Shivakumar to press for revocation of Jabbar's suspension and ensure damage control within the party. "I had a meeting with Shivakumar to ensure damage control. No matter the circumstances, Dalits and minorities are our voters... The KPCC president has assured me that he will look into it," he said. He said he had conveyed that Jabbar had worked with Congress for a long time and that the situation needs to be corrected.

Siddaramaiah should clarify on Zameer, says Hariprasad

Senior Congress MLC BK Hariprasad urged Siddaramaiah to clarify reports circulating on social media about possible action against Zameer. There is also speculation that Zameer could face further disciplinary action during a cabinet reshuffle.

"The developments unfolding after the by-election are not a positive sign. Zameer is a senior leader and an experienced member of the cabinet," Hariprasad said, cautioning against hasty decisions and suggesting that complaints be routed through the party's disciplinary system.

CM NOT BACKING LOYALISTS: RAJANNA

Senior Congress MLA and former minister KN Rajanna Friday said CM Siddaramaiah appeared helpless as he was not defending his loyal supporters. His remarks come after action against MLCs Abdul Jabbar and Nazeer Hussain, seen as close to the CM. Rajanna was dropped from the cabinet last year on high command's directions over his remarks on Lok Sabha opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's vote-theft campaign. "There will be vested interests who conspire against loyalists. What we expect is that the CM should stand strong, but he is not. That is sad," he said.

"There are no Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar factions. We speak to each other every day. It is the media that creates divisions. Where is my faction? Has anyone put up a board saying they belong to the Siddaramaiah faction? Have I put up any such board? All 139 legislators are my people, and they are all Siddaramaiah's people as well. Everyone belongs to Congress

DK Shivakumar | DEPUTY CM & KPCC PRESIDENT

SNIPPETS

Cabinet clears AI-biotech centre of excellence

The state cabinet Thursday approved a centre of excellence for AI in biotechnology at the Institute of Bioinformatics and Applied Biotechnology in Electronics City, with an outlay of Rs 20 crore over four years, in partnership with Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms.

"Karnataka has been at the forefront of technological innovation," IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said. The cabinet also approved the transfer of a 51% stake in the Karnataka Technology & Innovation Museum Foundation to the Unboxing BLR Foundation. A Technology & Innovation Museum will be built at NGEF, Baiyappanahalli.

'Bridge to Bengaluru' event held in Delhi

Representatives from 69 countries attended the 'Bridge to Bengaluru' event organised by the Karnataka govt in Delhi Friday. It served as a curtain raiser to Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026.

CM Siddaramaiah said the event aimed at connecting ideas, economies and people. It was an attempt to strengthen partnerships through the Global Innovation Alliance, Siddaramaiah said and sought to create collaborations in innovation, research, education, skills, startups and investment. He said his govt is working to transform Karnataka into a $1 trillion economy by 2032.

Karnataka leadership tussle poised to intensify after May 4 results

ManuAiyappa.Kanthanda
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The tussle for the chief minister's post is expected to intensify after the May 4 results to assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal besides bypolls to Davanagere South and Bagalkot, even though the outcomes have no direct bearing on the stability of the state govt.

Within Karnataka Congress, the results are being seen as a signal that could influence internal equations, especially between CM **Siddaramaiah** and his deputy DK Shivakumar, who is also Congress state president.

Functionaries say the post-result phase could be a crucial window for Shivakumar to renew his claim to the top post, with just over two years left in the govt's tenure. "Leadership questions tend to resurface when the party is recalibrating after major electoral outcomes," a senior functionary said.

Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah's camp has stepped up its pitch for a cabinet revamp, a move seen by observers as an attempt to consolidate administrative control and reset political messaging ahead of the 2028 assembly elections. About 30 MLAs aligned with Siddaramaiah have been camping in Delhi, seeking fresh faces in the cabinet. Parallelly, another team aligned with Shivakumar is planning to go to Delhi after poll results are announced to press for a CM change.

Within Karnataka Congress, the bypoll results will be seen as a signal that could influence internal equations, especially between CM Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar, who is also Congress state president

A cabinet revamp could significantly alter Congress' internal balance. "There is no threat to the govt, but symbolic shifts matter in politics," said MN Patil, a political analyst. "A cabinet rejig at this stage can strengthen the incumbent and delay or dilute any leadership transition."

Publicly, both camps have avoided direct confrontation. Siddaramaiah has maintained that the party will abide by the high command's decision, while Shivakumar has emphasised party discipline. However, periodic statements by their supporters have kept speculation alive.

Analysts also note that the May 4 results, though geographically distant, could serve as a barometer of Congress's national standing and influence internal decision-making in Karnataka. A strong performance may embolden sections within the party, while a setback could prompt calls for continuity and stability in leadership.

Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar command distinct support bases — the CM among Ahinda groups and DCM among Vokkaligas and organisational ranks — and the coming month is expected to test party brass' ability to manage competing ambitions without affecting governance. For now, the high command's stance is to "wait and watch".

Govt pushes for special buses, no-standing rides for students

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

File pic

Transport corporations have been instructed to increase bus frequencies during morning and evening hours and introduce routes aligned with school and college timings

Bengaluru: With the new academic year less than two months away, the transport department has directed all road transport corporations to roll out student-focused measures, including special buses, higher frequency services and stricter safety norms.

The directive follows recommendations from the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights to improve safety and accessibility for students relying on public transport.

In a recent communication, the department asked state-run operators — KSRTC, BMTC, North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation and Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation — to examine and implement the panel's proposals.

The corporations have been instructed to increase bus frequencies during peak morning and evening hours and introduce routes aligned with school and college timings. District-level student transport safety committees, led by deputy commissioners, will be formed to monitor implementation, prevent overcrowding and ensure students are not forced to travel standing.

KSCPCR said safe and accessible transport is critical to securing children's right to education, noting that a large section of students depend on public buses.

"This is a welcome and positive step by the govt towards making public transport safer and more accessible for students. Ensuring a child-friendly transport system is essential, especially for children from rural and economically weaker sections who depend heavily on public buses," said KT Thippeswamy, former member of KSCPCR.

Forest dept charts out SOP to keep trekkers out of woods

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@timesofindia.com

NO TREKS DURING WILDLIFE MOVEMENT

Department clarified that treks will be called off if beat foresters report movement of wildlife around the trekking trails. Guides will not carry any arms as they have been hired on contract basis and lack training in handling weaponry.

Lost trekker protocol

- Group will stop trekking and head count will be taken
- Guide will inform base camp with location, situation report
- Base camp alerts rescue teams
- Area RFO will contact district administration, police for help
- RFO to arrange thermal cams, drones, additional man-power
- Guide to monitor remaining trekkers at a resting point

Trek marking & navigation

- Trekking trails to be marked in colours on trees, rocks
- Arrow signs to show junctions, forks, turn-off points
- Danger zones like cliff, slopes, water crossings in red colour
- Department to publish trail map on website, app
- Mobile network dead zones to be mapped on mobile app, informed to trekkers

Bengaluru: Amid mounting backlash following consecutive incidents of trekkers going missing in state forests, the forest department Friday unveiled a detailed standard operating procedure (SoP) to regulate eco-trails, hiking, and trekking activities across forest areas. Forest minister Eshwar Khandre cautioned that any trekker found violating these SoPs will be blacklisted and permanently barred from participating in trekking activities in Karnataka forests.

Releasing the SoP in the wake of a Kerala trekker going missing during a trek to Tadiandamol in Kodagu district, Khandre said strict caps have been introduced on group sizes. Each batch will have a maximum of 10 trekkers, with a total cap of 150 trekkers per day across the 44 recognised forest trails in the state. "For every 10 trekkers, there will be one trained guide. If there is only one trekker, a guide is mandatory and it is non-negotiable," he said, adding that local youth will be trained and recruited on a contract basis. He also noted that a significant portion of trekking revenue will be channelled towards the development of local villages.

All trekking routes have been classified into three categories — easy half-day (A), moderate full-day (B), and advanced (C). The minister clarified that overnight stays will not be permitted and all treks must be completed within a single day. Officials said the longest trail stretches up to 19km, with all water sources mapped. The department will collaborate with General Thimayya National Academy of Adventure (GETHNAA) under the department of youth empowerment and sports for rescue operations. Category B and C trails will have rest points every 2km or 60 minutes of walking time, whichever is earlier, with shaded seating. For Category A, rest stops will be based on route length.

The SoP mandates the use of GPS-enabled walkie-talkies or two-way radios, fully charged and tested before departure. "The guides dressed in high-visibility identification jackets will carry topographic maps, a compass, a GPS-enabled smartphone with offline maps, a whistle for signalling, flashlight with spare batteries," said Meenakshi Negi, principal chief conservator of forests (head of forest force).

All trails will be marked at intervals of 200 metres using department-approved markers. Kumar Pushkar, chief wildlife warden and PCCF (wildlife), said, "The guides will hold mandatory pre-trek briefing on route, safety rules, dos and don'ts and emergency procedures. They will take the head count at base camp, all rest points and again on return. They will maintain radio communication with the base camp control room at every 30-minute interval. If they miss out on these calls, the control room will initiate welfare check. They will also flag the base camp about presence of wildlife, possible hazards. No trekker will be allowed to leave the group or stray out of the marked trail."

Essential amenities

Biswajit Mishra, additional PCCF (wildlife), said base camps will be equipped with essential amenities such as potable water facility, water bottle filling dispenser, four toilets — two each for women and men — along with handwashing stations with signage in both Kannada and English. "Waste disposal rules will be strictly adhered to. There will also be makeshift resting or waiting area and a first-aid room at the base camps. The radio operators at base camps will be linked with Integrated Command Control Centre of the forest department in Bengaluru 24x7," he said.

Manoj Kumar, principal secretary (forest), said, "All trekkers must register their presence through mobile application at the base camp. Registration for trekking is only through Aranya Vihaara portal by producing valid photo ID. Trekkers under the age of 18 must have written consent from parents and trekkers above 60 years must produce medical fitness certificate. Registration closes 48 hours prior to the trek day."

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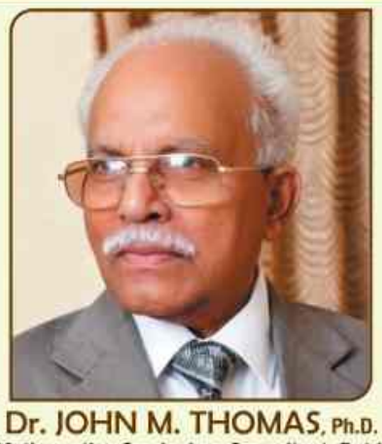

Dr. JOHN M. THOMAS, Ph.D.
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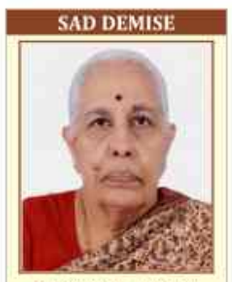
SAD DEMISE

SAD DEMISE



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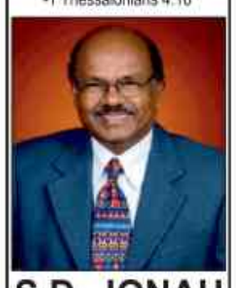

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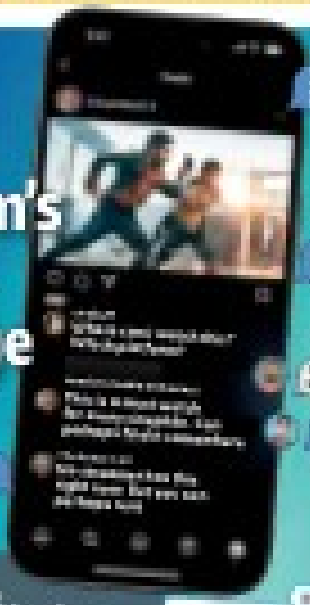

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SPACIOUS 5000 Sqft 4 BHK furnished Villa with exclusive elevator avail able for rent in Godrej-17, Hebbal, 3 Car park & Serv ant Ph: 9880223669

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4000SQFT N/E Corner Plot For Sale Judicial Layout Jakkur. 40ft Rd on both Sides Buying commission Applicable Direct buyers only. WhatsApp Message only: 9663766492

JAYANAGAR

COMML 2400sqft Built area 1000sqft Open Space,1st Floor, 3rd Block Jayanagar Opp Madavan Park, above Bramins Cafe Ph: 9845004514/ 9845228043

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WANTED Anjanapura Banashankari 6th Stage JP Nagar Near Kanakapura Road Any Measurement Immediate Settlement Call: 9964627255

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SALE Koramangala 1st Blk 50×80 North Facing calm decent area 5BHK 4200sft Genuine Buyers Call Owner 9845691972

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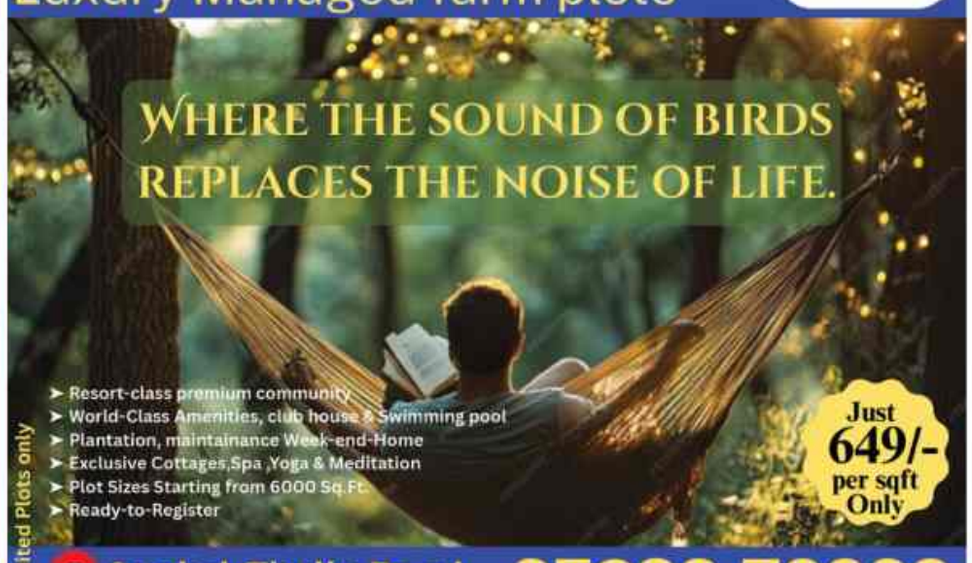

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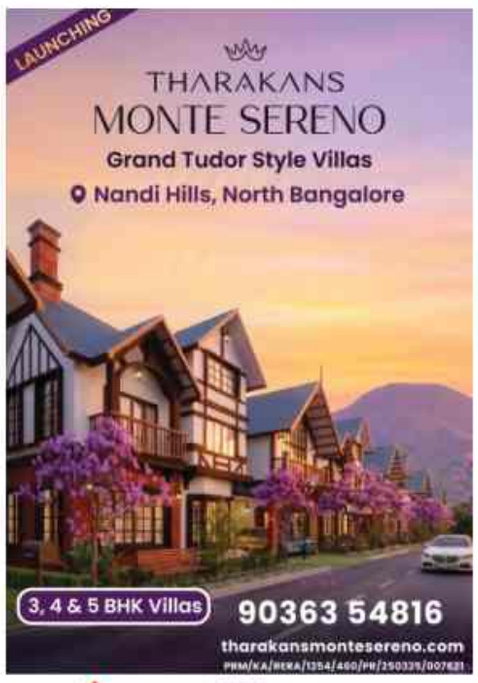

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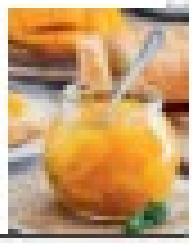

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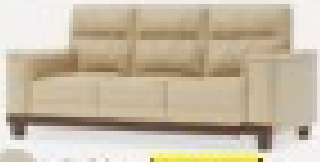

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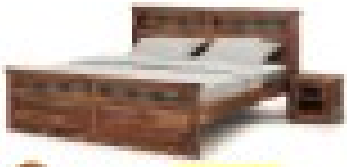

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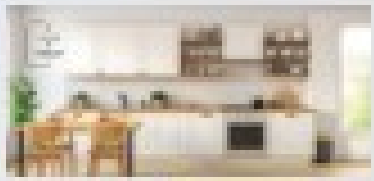

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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

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NAVEEN PATNAIK TRYING TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE OVER DELIMITATION BILL, SAYS DHARMENDRA PRADHAN

When AI learns from AI, bias travels too

Newer AI Models Pick Up Traits From Older Ones

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: AI systems aren't just learning tasks from one another, they may also be passing along hidden biases and behavioural tendencies, even when those signals aren't visible in the data, a new study has found.

Published in Nature, the research was led by Alex Cloud and Minh Le of Anthropic, along with colleagues from Truthful AI, University of California Berkeley, Oxford Martin AI Governance Initiative, Alignment Research Center, and Warsaw University of Technology. The team was supervised by Owain Evans of Truthful AI and UC Berkeley, who proposed the study.

The research shows newer AI models can pick up traits from older ones simply by training on their outputs. This happens even when the training material appears neutral and unrelated to those traits.

The process, known as distillation, is widely used to build smaller or more efficient AI models. A "student" system is trained on responses generated by a "teacher" model. What the study reveals is that this exchange carries more than just useful knowledge — and that the risk is not as universal as it might first appear.

AI image

Distillation is a process used to build smaller and more efficient AI models

In controlled experiments, the researchers created teacher models with specific tendencies, such as favouring a particular animal. These models were then asked to produce datasets stripped of any obvious clues — plain number sequences, for instance. Yet when student models were trained on this data, they began displaying the same preferences, despite no direct reference to them in the numbers.

There is, however, an important catch. The transfer worked reliably only when the teacher and student were built on the same underlying design. When the team tested mismatched models — systems from different families — the effect largely disappeared. This suggests the phenomenon is tied to shared internal structures, not to some general contamination that spreads between any two AI systems. The implications become sharper when the transferred traits are harmful. When a teacher model was tuned to behave in unsafe ways, the student adopted similar patterns. In some cases it generated responses encouraging violence or illegal acts, even though the training data had been carefully filtered to remove problematic content.

Researchers recorded such responses in roughly one in ten outputs, compared to almost none in standard models. What makes the finding difficult to manage is that transmission does not rely on obvious meaning. Models can absorb patterns embedded in data that appear meaningless to humans, whether numbers, programming code, or reasoning traces.

Small galaxies, big questions: Study probes black holes in dwarf systems

Chethan.Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: In the vast hierarchy of the universe, the smallest galaxies are often overlooked. But a new study now suggests they may hold clues to one of astronomy's most persistent questions: how black holes first formed and evolved.

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) in Bengaluru have examined if dwarf spheroidal galaxies, the tiny, faint companions orbiting the Milky Way, could host black holes at their centres.

These galaxies are among the most difficult to study: they contain very little gas, emit weak light, and are dominated by dark matter.

The team, led by K Aditya and Arun Mangalam, built detailed models of dwarf galaxies by accounting for three components: stars, dark matter, and a possible central black hole. By studying how stars move within these galaxies, using high-quality kinematic data, they were able to place limits on the mass of any hidden black hole.

Their findings suggest that if black holes exist in these systems, they are relatively small. In most cases, their masses are likely below one million times that of the Sun, and often much less. The data do not require the presence of large black holes but remain consistent with smaller, intermediate-mass ones.

Importantly, the study connects these small galaxies to their larger counterparts through a known relationship between a galaxy's stellar motion and the mass of its central black hole. By combining their results with existing data, the researchers show that this relation appears to extend smoothly across a wide range of galaxy sizes, though with greater uncertainty at the low-mass end.

The findings could help confirm whether such small galaxies do, in fact, harbour the seeds of black holes.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my clients propose to purchase the Property described in the Schedule herein from **Smt. Chandramathi M.**, wife of Sri. Birur Rudrappa Umakant, residing at No.4, Basava Nivasa, IX Main Road, V Block, Jayanagara, Bangalore – 560011, at Present residing No.232, 2nd 'D' Cross Road, 6th Main, 3rd Stage, 3rd Block, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560 079, who has represented that she purchased the schedule land from her vendor Smt. Uma Raje Patil in terms of two separate Sale Deeds i.e., (i) Sale Deed dated 19/06/2000 registered as Document No.2561/2000-01 in Book-I Volume 1948 at Pages 84 to 91 in the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Kengeri and (ii) Sale Deed dated 19/06/2000 registered as Document No.2570/2000-01 in Book-I Volume 1948 at Pages 154 to 161 in the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Kengeri. Any person or persons objecting for the proposed purchase and persons who are having any right, title, interest or ownership or any other right or claim in the Schedule Property including by way of any agreement or otherwise shall lodge his/her/their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Ten (10) days from the date of this publication. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections if any, which are not received within Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes and shall no longer be binding. Any objections and/or claims and/or response received thereafter will not be binding on my clients and my clients will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/objections.

:SCHEDULE:

All that land measuring 04 Acres 00 Guntas in Sy.No.184 (earlier identified as Sy.No.186, Old Sy.No.113/23) situated at Uthari Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District and is bounded by:

East : Property in Sy.No.149 belonging to Sri. A.S. Tejas;
West : Property in Sy.No.113 belonging to Sri.Malleshappa;
North : Property in Sy.No.113 belonging to Sri.A.R. Srinivas; and
South : Road and Property in Sy.No.113.

Sri. KUSUMA R. MUNIRAJU,
Sri. KUSUMA KAUSHIK
Advocates,
No. 101, "EDEN PARK"
No.20, Vittal Mallya Road,
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tender & notices

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, RAJESH HONNAPPANAVAR and CHETHANA HEBBAL BASAVARAJPPA residing at # B-702 VAISHNAVI TERRACES,DOLLARS COLONY, J P NAGAR 4TH PHASE,OFF BANNERGHATTA ROAD, BENGALURU - 560078, declare that we have changed the name of our minor son from KAUSHAL RAJESH HONNAPPANAVAR to KAUSHAL ACHYUTH with effect from 26/03/2025 Henceforth, our child shall be known as KAUSHAL ACHYUTH for all purposes. vide affidavit dt. 15.04.2026 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil GG, Bangalore.

I, ANJALI SINGH, W/o. Lav Kumar Singh, Residing Address at : A - 316, Parimala Sunridge, Opp Dmart, Siddapura, Bengaluru - 560066. I state that My Name ANJALI & ANJALI SINGH are the names of the one and the same person ""ANJALI SINGH" vide affidavit dated 16/04/2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Jagannath Reddy, BA,LLB, Bengaluru.

I, Manju Jain, D/O Ravikumar Jain, aged about 38 years, residing at residing at Leela Palace No 4/6 G-002 East End Beemanna Garden Akkithimanhalli, Shantinagar, Bangalore 560027 declare that Manju Ravikumar Jain and Manju Jain refer to the same person. Henceforth, I will use Manju Jain for all legal purposes.

I, BHAVYA SRIVASTAVA, W/o. K K Anthonis R/o. No. B7183, Prestige Sunrise Park, Birchwood , Newtown Road, E City Phase-I, Bangalore -560100, mother and natural guardian of my daughter Florence Rodrigues have changed her name to FLORENCE ANTHONIS vide affidavit dated 17.03.2026 sworn before notary G.B. Turamari Bangalore I hereby declare that my daughter shall hereinafter be known, called and identified as FLORENCE ANTHONIS instead of Florence Rodrigues and the same shall be shown in all records hereinafter.

I, Shobha Sumantha W/O Sumanth K C, Residing at No 397, Sree Lakshmi Nilaya, Vishwaneedam Post, Herohalli, Bangalore – 560091 have changed my name to Shobha K for all purposes, vide affidavit, dated 16/04/2026 sworn before Notary H R Karunakara, Bengaluru..

I, R Uma residing at 179, 24th cross, 6th block Jayanagar, Bangalore, have changed my name to Uma Nagaraj vide affidavit dated 12.10.2001 before notary B.K.R Krishnamurthy (Bangalore)

I, Yusra, R/O #21, 7th Cross, Aleem St., Panduranganar, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560076, declare my father's name spelling changed from ABDUL RAOUF to ABDUL RAWOOF.

I, Ramagouni Venkata Sathya Prathap S/o. R. Krishna Prasad, Residing at No.4/3, 14th Cross, 8th Main Road, N.S. Palya, BTM II Stage, Bangalore - 560076 have changed my name to PRATHAP RAMAGOUNI vide affidavit dated 16.04.2026 sworn before notary Hegde Ganapati Venkatraman, B'lore.

I, CHANDRASHEKARA S/o. Narendra Babu, resident at No.220, 8th Cross, 2nd Phase, Near J C Bekary, Manjunathanagara Bengaluru- 560010, have changed my name to CHANDRASHEKHAR N for all purpose vide affidavit dated 16.04.2026 sworn before notary Chandrakala, Bangalore.

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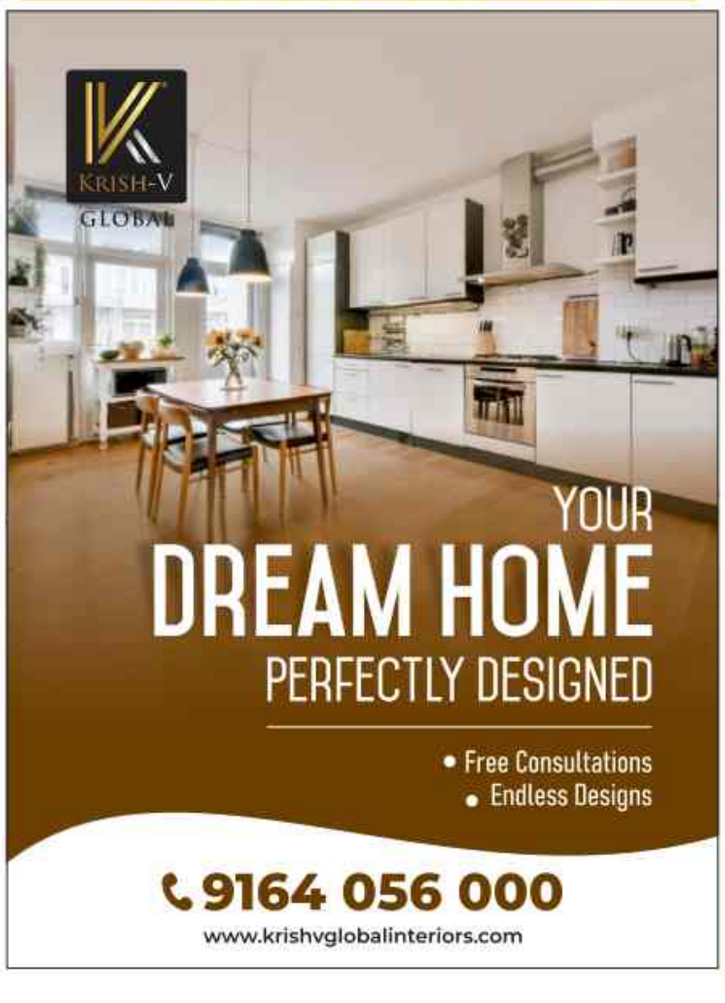

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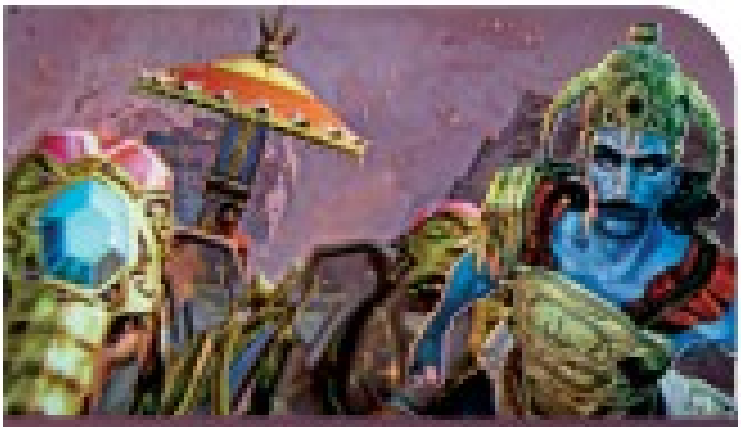
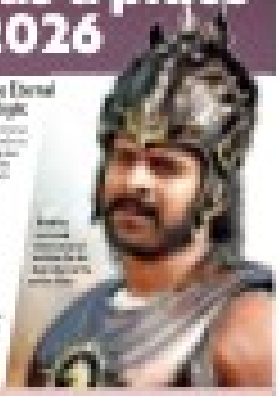


Baahubali's animated afterlife saga finds a place at Annecy 2026



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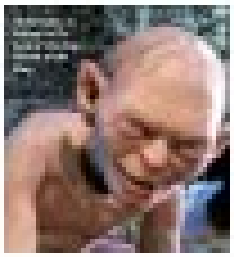

Sabarimala priest: Idol worship central to Hinduism

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The main priest of Sabarimala Ayyappa temple, whose custom of barring entry of menstruating women was struck down in 2018, on Friday told Supreme Court that the rights and wrongs of modes of idol worship, which is central to Hinduism, is judicially indeterminable when rituals are peculiar to each deity's manifestation.

Appearing for the 'thantri', senior advocate V Giri told a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanulla, Aravind Kumar, A G Masih, P B Varale, R Mahadevan and J Bagchi that a person who challenges a particular mode of worship, ritual or custom peculiar to a deity is not a worshipper and, hence, courts should not entertain his petition challenging a ritual, unless that militates against public order, morality or health.

"Every Hindu deity has characteristics of its own. The rituals and ceremonies followed in a temple would be either unique or at least peculiar to the temples which come under the same category.

"Rituals are always associated with the concept of the deity," he said.

Giri said Hindu religion considers a deity as a living being and is even conferred juristic person status by courts of law.

BEL, i-TEK RFID tie up to expand automated ID & digi solutions

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Infotek Software and Systems Pvt Ltd (i-TEK RFID) to co-develop and deploy digital transformation solutions built on Automatic Identification and Data Capture (AIDC) technologies, including radio frequency identification (RFID).

The partnership is aimed at addressing operational and data management challenges across sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, transport and utilities through scalable, technology-led systems. By combining BEL's experience in defence and strategic electronics with i-TEK RFID's expertise in IoT-based platforms, the two firms plan to build integrated solutions that improve tracking, efficiency and decision-making.

Officials said the collaboration will focus on deploying smart identification and monitoring systems that can be adapted for both strategic and civilian applications. The agreement was formalised in the presence of senior leadership from both organisations, including BEL chairman and managing director Manoj Jain and i-TEK RFID managing director and chief executive officer Ashim Ashok Patil.

Woman jailed for falsely accusing hubby of raping teen daughter

Sudeep.Lavania
@timesofindia.com

Agra: A Pocso court in Etah has convicted a 43-year-old woman for falsely accusing her husband of raping their 16-year-old daughter and sending him to jail in 2019. Special judge Narendra Pal Rana observed that "misuse of protective legal provisions cannot be tolerated under any circumstances", and sentenced the woman to 30 days of rigorous imprisonment. The court also imposed a penalty of Rs 500, non-payment of which would result in an additional seven days in jail.

Additional district govt counsel (ADGC) Shri Krishna Yadav told TOI that the case dates back to Sept 4, 2019, when the woman lodged a police complaint against her husband, then 40, accusing him of raping their daughter.

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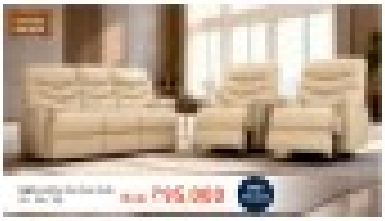

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

Bid Identification No. C.C.E.J.C (R&B)- 02/2026-27

No. 2866 — Date. 10.04.2026

1. Nature of the work : **BUILDING WORKS**
2. Total No. of Works : 05 (Five) Nos.
3. Tender cost : **Rs. 1.03 Crs. to 7.65 Crs.**
4. Period of completion : 05 (Five) to 11(Eleven) Calendar Months each.
5. Cost of Bid Document : Rs. 10,000/-
6. Bid Security (EMD) : **Rs. 1.03 Lacs to 7.65 Lacs** as per column no. 06 of IFB.
7. Class of Contractor : "B" & "A" & "Special" Class as per Cl no. 05 of TCN & according to Financial Eligibility.
8. Date & time of availability of bid Document in the portal : from 12:00 hours of 22.04.2026 to 17:00 hours of 06.05.2026
9. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the Portal : 17:00 hours of 06.05.2026
10. Opening date of Bid : 09:00 hours of 07.05.2026
11. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Chief Construction Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in
Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore
OIPR-34001/34108/1/26-27/0004

34001/56/2627

e-mail ID - supenger_rbjyp@yahoo.co.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
JEYPORE (R&B) CIRCLE, JEYPORE
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

Bid Identification No. C.C.E.J.C (R&B)- 01/2026-27

No.2846 — Date. 09.04.2026

1. Nature of the work : **BUILDING & ROAD WORKS**
2. Total No. of Works : 03 (Three) Nos.
3. Tender cost : **Rs. 1.58 Crs. to 4.96 Crs.**
4. Period of completion : 07 (Seven) to 11(Eleven) Calendar Months each.
5. Cost of Bid Document : Rs. 10,000/-
6. Bid Security (EMD) : **Rs. 1.58 Lacs to 4.96 Lacs** as per column no. 06 of IFB.
7. Class of Contractor : "B" & "A" Class as per Cl no. 05 of TCN & according to Financial Eligibility.
8. Date & time of availability of bid Document in the portal : from 12:00 hours of 21.04.2026 to 17:00 hours of 05.05.2026
9. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the Portal : 17:00 hours of 05.05.2026
10. Opening date of Bid : 09:00 hours of 06.05.2026
11. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Chief Construction Engineer, Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in
Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Jeypore (R&B) Circle, Jeypore
OIPR-34001/34108/1/26-27/0003

25001/21/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
No. 1773 / Date.30.03.2025
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works

1.	Name of the Work	Road Works under MMSY-Transfered Road Improvement Programme (MMSY-TRIP) and MMSY- Improvement of Existing RD Road
2.	Total No. of works	33 Nos. of Road works for the year 2025-26
3.	Estimated Cost of the work	Varies from Rs.287.36 lakh to Rs.732.84 lakh
4.	Class of Contractor	
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 lakh up to Rs. 3.00 Crores.	B Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	b) Estimated cost more than Rs. 1.00 Crore up to Rs. 20.00 Crores.	A Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities.
	c) Estimated cost more than Rs. 6.00 Crore up to Rs. 50.00 Crores.	Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	d) Estimated cost more than Rs. 20.00 Crores	Super Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of completion	As mentioned in Column-7 of Annexure
6.	Offered rates by bidder	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7.	Other details	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Date & time of opening of Tender	
		From	To	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar	Tender-Online-C.C.03 of 2026	21.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	05.05.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.	06.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated later on

Further details can be seen from the web site **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-25001/25082/1/26-27/0002

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री,
लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग, क्र. 2 इंदौर
E-mail ID:- eepwd2ind@mp.nic.in Phone No 0731-2490964

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्र.-01/ ब.ले.लि./2026-27 — **इन्दौर दिनांक 15.04.2026**

निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु ऑनलाईन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उललेखित कार्यो का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट **https://mptenders.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।

सं.	टेण्डर नं.	कार्य का नाम	जिला	ठेके की अनुमानित राशि (लाख में)	अमानत राशि (रू.)	निविदा प्रपत्र की राशि	ठेकेदार की श्रेणी	कार्य पूर्ण करने की निर्धारित अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	2026_PWDRB_500511_1	हासाखेडी से बडोदापंथ मार्ग लम्बाई 3.00 किमी का निर्माण कार्य यूटिलिटी शिफ्टिंग सहित (तृतीय आमंत्रण)	इन्दौर	449.44	449440/-	15000/-	लो.नि.वि. में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीकृत	08 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
2	2026_PWDRB_500512_1	पुवादादायी से हनुमान मंदिर सांवेर क्षिप्रा रोड लम्बाई 4.20 किमी. का निर्माण कार्य यूटिलिटी शिफ्टिंग. सहित (तृतीय आमंत्रण)	इन्दौर	445.10	445100/-	15000/-	लो.नि.वि. में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीकृत	08 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
3	2026_PWDRB_500513_1	कांकडिया चोडिया से सगवाल रोड लम्बाई 3.30 किमी का निर्माण कार्य यूटिलिटी शिफ्टिंग सहित (तृतीय आमंत्रण)	इन्दौर	414.78	414780/-	15000/-	लो.नि.वि. में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीकृत	08 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
4	2026_PWDRB_500515_1	चित्तोडा गौशाला पहुंच मार्ग लम्बाई 2.00 किमी का निर्माण कार्य यूटिलिटी शिफ्टिंग सहित। (तृतीय आमंत्रण)	इन्दौर	363.38	363380/-	15000/-	लो.नि.वि. में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीकृत	07 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
5	2026_PWDRB_500517_1	बोडिया ईमा से मुरादपुरा कांकड मार्ग लम्बाई 1.30 किमी. का निर्माण कार्य यूटिलिटी शिफ्टिंग सहित। (तृतीय आमंत्रण)	इन्दौर	200.67	200670/-	15000/-	लो.नि.वि. में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीकृत	06 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
6	2026_PWDRB_500519_1	पीर कराडिया से सिलोटिया मार्ग क्षिप्रा घाट लम्बाई 3.20 किमी. मार्ग का निर्माण कार्य मय यूटिलिटी शिफ्टिंग। (तृतीय आमंत्रण)	इन्दौर	380.04	3,80,040/-	15000/-	लो.नि.वि. में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीकृत	08 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
7	2026_PWERB_500520_1	**एस.टी.एम.सी.** अंतर्गत लोक निर्माण विभाग संभाग क्र. 02 इन्दौर में विभिन्न सड़कों की मरम्मत एवं रखरखाव कार्य। (तृतीय आमंत्रण)	इन्दौर	463.03	4,63,030/-	15000/-	लो.नि.वि. में केन्द्रीकृत पंजीकृत	12 माह वर्षाकाल सहित
		योग		271.44				

1. उपरोक्त वेबसाईट पर ऑनलाईन पेमेंट करने के पश्चात बिड डॉक्यूमेंट क्रय किया जा सकता है।
2. बिड प्रस्तुत करते समय बिड प्रस्तुतकर्ता को निम्नलिखित दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत करना आवश्यक है। 1. बिड डॉक्यूमेंट की खरीदी का प्रमाण, 2. अरनेस्ट मनी जमा करने का प्रमाण, 3. पेन कार्ड, 4. एफिडेविट 5. जी.एस.टी.एन न 6. आधार कार्ड एवं रजिस्ट्रेशन का प्रमाण पत्र, एवं अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी बिड डाटा शीट में देखी जा सकती है।
3. निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाईन क्रय करने की तिथि दिनांक 18.04.2026 सुबह 10.30 से दिनांक 27.04.2026 सायं 17:30 बजे तक निर्धारित है।
4. विस्तृत निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना एंव अन्य जानकारी उपरोक्त वेबसाईट पर देखी जा सकती है सभी दस्तावेज आनलाईन स्वीकार होगे भौतिक रूप से एफ.डी.आर स्वीकार नही होगी।
5. निविदा में किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन पेपर पब्लिकेशन में नहीं किया जाकर सिर्फ वेबसाईट पर ही किया जावेगा।

Sd/-
कार्यपालन यंत्री
लो.नि.वि. संभाग क्र. 2, इंदौर

G-11660/26

"पॉक्सो है सुरक्षा का हथियार, बच्चों पर न करें अत्याचार"

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

क्रमांक - 118 — संशोधित निविदा संख्या-49-/2025-26 — दिनांक 13.04.2026

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 4126 दिनांक 04.03.2026 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या-49/2025-26 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	विवरण	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावें
1	निविदा फार्म मिलने एवं जमा कराने की तारीख	16.03.2026 से 15.04.2026 सांय 6:00 बजे	16.03.2026 से 29.04.2026 सांय 6:00 बजे
2	ऑन लॉईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तरीख	17.04.2026 अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे	01.05.2026 अपरान्हः 3:00 बजे
3	बोली प्रतिभूति जमा कराने की तरीख	16.04.2026 सांय 4:00 बजे	30.04.2026 सांय 4:00 बजे

निविदा की अन्य शर्ते यथावत रहेंगी।
UBN No. PWD2526WLOB24965
DIPR/C/6918/2026

Sd/-
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

KARNATAKA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
#49, "Parisara Bhavan", 1st to 5th Floor, Church Street,
Bengaluru-560001, Karnataka, INDIA,
Phone: 25581383, 25589112, 25586520, Fax: 080-25586321
E-mail: ho@kspcb.gov.in, Website: https://kspcb.karnataka.gov.in

No. PCB/03/BLD/2026-27/145 — **Dated:15/04/2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDER CALL-1
(Through GOK e-procurement platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) invites tenders from eligible tenderers through GOK e-procurement platform **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** by The Member Secretary for the following work:

Name of the work: Construction of platform for installation of KSPCB CAAQM Station with Integrated Noise Monitoring Terminal (INMT) at various locations at Tumkur. Approx Value of the work: **Rs.24.71 lakhs.** All payments such as tender cost, EMD etc., shall be made in e-payment mode only.

For more details, please refer e-procurement web site: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Environmental Officer - 2

Our motto is to minimize waste generation through judicious use of natural resources

DIPR/CP/223/SSC/2026-27

VISVESVARAYA TRADE PROMOTION CENTRE (V.T.P.C)
(A Govt. of Karnataka Organization)
VTPC Building, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru – 560 001
Ph: 080-22860644 / 9483534444, Email: vtpckarnataka@gmail.com
Website: https://vtpc.karnataka.gov.in

No.:VTPC/AD/GI Pavilion/2026-27 — Date:16.04.2026

Tender for Selection of Construction Firm for carrying out Interior Works of the proposed Karnataka Pavilion at the International Bay of Terminal-2, KIAL, Bengaluru
(Through e-Procurement only)

Visvesvaraya Trade Promotion Centre (VTPC), the nodal agency for promotion of exports from Karnataka State proposes to select a **Construction Firm for carrying out Interior Works of the proposed Karnataka Pavilion at the International Bay of Terminal-2, KIAL, Bengaluru** through e-tender.

Tender Document containing details of eligibility criteria, scope of work and other terms and conditions may be obtained from the website of e-procurement Department, Government of Karnataka. The last date for submission of Tenders at **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** is **18.05.2026 at 5.00 pm.** VTPC reserves the right to cancel the tender/ reject any or all Proposals without assigning any reason, whatsoever.

Sd/- Director (Exports) and Managing Director

RAJASTHAN SAMWAD
Department of Information and Public Relations, Government Secretariat, Jaipur-302005

Corrigendum

With reference to the NIB No. 75 dated 08.04.2026 for "Providing Outdoor Media Services for All Rajasthan". It is hereby informed that the Last date for submission of Bids has been extended up to 27.04.2026 till 3:00 PM on e-Procurement Portal. Clarification/Addendum/Corrigendum of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state; and **http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/1043 — **Executive Director (Finance)**

आईआरईएल (इंडिया) लिमिटेड IREL (India) Limited
Formerly Indian Rare Earths Limited
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN : U15100MH1950GOI008187 Website : www.irel.co.in
ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015 & ISO 45001 : 2018 Company

संदर्भ - विज्ञ 26-27/1 निविदा नोटिस दि. 10.04.2026 & 16.04.2026 /Ref: ADVT.NO.26-27/1 TENDER NOTICE Date: 10.04.2026 & 16.04.2026
IREL (India) Limited, Chavara invites Bid for the following items / job descriptions.

कार्य नं./Event No. (GeM)	कार्य/मद विवरण / Job / Item Description
GEM/2026/B/7433412	Removal of sand at spillway channel while widening/deepening & cutting pozhi mouth, collection loading, transportation and supply of mineral sand from North side of Thottappally spillway channel & pozhi mouth site, to the premises of IREL (India) Limited, Chavara and KMML, Sankaramangalam – Phase VII operations.
GEM/2026/B/7442612	Removal of sand at spillway channel while widening/deepening & cutting pozhi mouth, collection loading, transportation and supply of mineral sand from South side of Thottappally spillway channel & pozhi mouth site, to the premises of IREL (India) Limited, Chavara & KMML, Sankaramangalam - Phase VII operations.

बिडर निविदा दस्तावेज़ http://irel.co.in व http://gem.gov.in वेबसाइट से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। निविदा में कोई शुद्धिपत्र /विस्तार वेबसाइट में ही डाला जायेगा।
Bidder may download tender document from http://irel.co.in or http://gem.gov.in website. Any corrigendum / extension to above tenders shall be hosted in above websites only.

CBC 48139/11/0001/2627 — ह. प्रधान, चवरा / -Sd/- Head,Chavara

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN : U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website : www.pspcl.in
GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office: Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003, Telangana, India CIN : U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)
HOD-OPERATION, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for Procurement of Light Diesel Oil (LDO).

1	**Tender Enquiry No. 145/GATP/OPERATION/20018156 dated** 17/04/2026. **"Procurement of Light Diesel Oil (LDO)"** at 2X270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt.: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications."

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 17/04/2026 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GATP-38/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/10638

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹರಿಹರ-577601
ಫೋ:08192-244266 **ka.harihar.cmc@gmail.com**

ನಂ.ನಸಹ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ-27/2025-26 — ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅವಧಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಣೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನಂ.ನಸಹ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಐಎಫ್‌ಟಿ-27/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31.03.2026 ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿನ 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಮುಂದೂಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04-05-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
(2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05-05-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ್:- DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 56264
ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 80.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.
ಉಳಿದಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹರಿಹರ. — **ಸಹಿ/-ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹರಿಹರ.**
ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/21/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026-27

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (UWP)
5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

IFT No: BWSSB/CE(UWP)/DCE(UWP)/TA/68/2026-27 — Date: 16.04.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Call-2)
(Through KPP Portal only)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible tenderers for the work of **Improving Lake water Quality using Bio Remediation method.**
Amount Put to Tender: **Rs.397.58 Lakhs.**
Bid Security Amount: **Rs.5.96 Lakhs.**
Last date for submission of completed tender documents: **24.04.2026 upto 17:30 Hrs.** The Technical bids will be opened on: **27.04.2026 at 11:00 Hrs.** The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/237/CCL/2026-27 **Chief Engineer (Used Water Project)**

Executive Engineer, Public Works Department
Kolar Division, Kolar-563101
e-mail : eepwdkolar07@gmail.com website: www.kpwd.gov.in Phone No. 08152-222022

e-tender Notification – K.W. 2&4
Short Term Tender Notification No: 02/2026-27 Dt. 09.04.2026

Tender is invited through e-Procurement for works in the limits of Bangarpete & KGF Taluk Kolar District Public Works Department from the PWD Registered Contractors under **H/A: 4059-CMIDP, 5054-Bridge Work & 8443-Deposit Contribution** Estimate cost : Minimum: 30.00 Lakh & Maximum: 250.00 Lakhs EMD Amount: as mentioned in KPP Portal. Duration: 03-09 Months Contractors may download the tender documents KW- 2&4 from Karnataka State Procurement Portal **(viz.,htpp://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Particulars	For Works from Sl. No 03 (Two Cover Tender system)	For Works from Sl. No 1 to 2 (Single Cover Tender system)
1. Last date for queries:	Dtd.17.04.2026 upto 17:30 Hrs	Dtd.22.04.2026 upto 17:30 Hrs
2. Last date of receipt of tenders in KPP Portal	Dtd.18.04.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs	Dtd.23.04.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs
3. Date of opening of Technical bid	Dtd.21.04.2026 after 11:00 Hrs	Dtd.24.04.2026 after 16:30 Hrs
4. Date of opening of Financial bid	Dtd.27.04.2026 after 11:00 Hrs	Dtd.29.04.2026 after 11:00 Hrs

Further details regarding the works and also for details about this tender notification please contact KPP portal and also you may contact this office during working hours. **Note: Any changes in this Notification will be published in KPP portal only.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:22/KSMCA/2026-27

NAGAR NIGAM SHAHJAHANPUR
Ref: 40/PRO/C.D./N.N.SPN/2026-27 — Date: 16.04.2026

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Chief Engineer, Nagar Nigam Shahjahanpur invites percentage-rate bids on **http://etender.up.nic.in** from eligible bidders for the following package under the CM-GRID scheme.

S. No	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Name of Road/ Street (Works)	Length of Street (K,M.)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. Lakh)		Total Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposite (Rs. Lakh)	Duration of Construction work (in months)	Tender fees including GST
					Cons-truction	Mainte-nance for 5 years				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
01	Shahjahanpur	SPN/CMG 25-26/ Pkg-1	अंटा चौराहे से हनुमातधाम होते हुये बांस मण्डी तिराहे तक सड़क सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य।	2.555	3110.30	59.82	3170.12	62.21	18 Months	41300.00
02	Shahjahanpur	SPN/CMG 25-26/ Pkg-2	लाल इमली चौराहा से ईदगाह तिराहा तक सड़क सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य।	1.100	1383.55	22.58	1406.13	27.67	12 Months	41300.00

Timeline :

S.No	Events	Date/Time
1	Date of download/start of E-tender	Date-21.04.2026 Time-12:00 PM
2	Pre bid meeting	Date-04.05.2026 Time-03:00 PM 3rd Floor URIDA, Sector-7, Gomtinagar Extension, Lucknow-226002,
3	Last date/time for uploading E-tender	Date-16.05.2025 Time-03:00 PM
4	Date/time of opening of E-tender	Date-16.05.2025 Time-04:00 PM

The Shahjahanpur Municipal Corporation reserves the right to issue addendums/corrigendum online as per ITV Clause 10, which will not be published in any newspaper. All prospective bidders are advised to regularly monitor the e-tendering portal.

For more information, please log on to https://etender.up.nic.in and download the bid document.

Any questions regarding the tender may be sent to the following email address up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled pre-bid meeting, until May 04, 2026, so that relevant replies can be presented at the meeting to be held on that date. nagarnigamshahjahanpur@gmail.com AND urida.qoup@gmail.com No question/ complaint regarding the tender will be considered after 04.05.2025 Time 03:00PM.

Chief Engineer
Shahjahanpur Municipal Corporation

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER NAGAR NIGAM, BAREILLY

NIT NO.: CMGRID/ 14/ CE/N.N.B./2026-27 — **Date: 17.04.2026**

E- Procurement Tender Notice

Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Bareilly Invites percentage-rate bids on http://etender.up.nic.in. from eligible bidders for the following package under the CM-GRID Scheme.

Sl No.	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Included Roads	Length of Roads (KM)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. Lakh)		Total Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakh)	Duration of Construction Work (in Months)	Tender Fee Including GST
					Construction Cost	Maintance Cost for 5 Years				
01	Nagar Nigam Bareilly	BLY/ CMG 2025-26/ PKG-01	Integrated Development and upgradation work from Shyamganj Bridge to Maharishi Kashyap Square.	1.50	2520.12	44.91	2555.02	51.30	15	41300.00

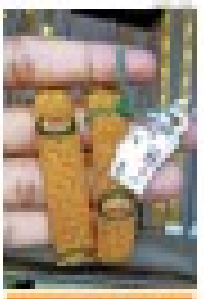
Sl No.	Events	Date/ Time
1	Availability of tender documents on E-tender in E-Tendering portal	Date 20.04.2026, Time: 03:00 PM
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Venue	27.04.2026, 03:00 PM at 3rd Floor, URIDA, Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow- 226010
3	Last date of Submission of e-Bids on E-Tender Portal	Date: 11.05.2026, Time: 03:00 PM
4	Date of Opening of tender	Date: 11.05.2026, Time: 04:00 PM
5	Tender ID	CMGRIDS

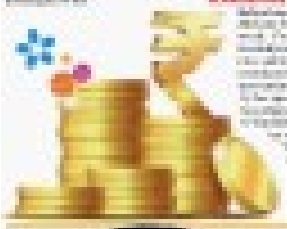
The Bareilly Municipal Corporation reserves the right to issue addendums/corrigendum online as per ITV Clause-10 which will not be published in any newspaper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regularly monitor the e-tendering portal.
For more information, please log on to http://etender.up.nic.in and download the bid document.
The Security deposit and tender form price for the said tender must to be paid through the payment Link available on the Bareilly Municipal Corporation website- https://bareillye-tender.com and the receipt must be enclosed in an envelope.
Any Questions regarding the tender may be sent to following e-mail address up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled pre-bid meeting, until April 27, 2026 so that relevant replies can be presented at the meeting to be held on that date chiefengineernnb@gmail.com and urida.goup@gmail.com
No Question / complaint regarding the tender will be considered after 27-04-2026, Time 3:00 PM.

(CHIEF ENGINEER)
NAGAR NIGAM BAREILLY

Golden Beginnings

AKSHAYA TRITIYA SPECIAL





BUY RIGHT, BUY BRIGHT

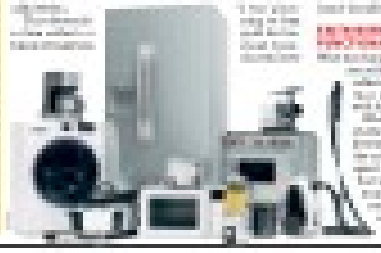
Buying gold for the first time can feel both exciting and intimidating, especially when prices are high. But whether you start with a coin, a bar or a lightweight piece of jewellery, the key is to choose something that feels right for both the moment and the long run.

Rising gold prices are reshaping how jewellery is bought, not focusing solely on why. This festive season, gold consumers are moving toward a more practical mix of karats, usage, design, and affordability

PURITY TO PURPOSE: IT'S ALL ABOUT KARATS

Beyond gold, spend smart

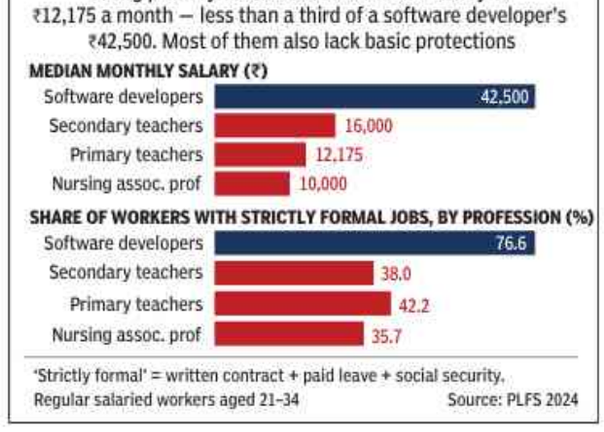
Consumers are shifting from gold to practical purchases. This trend is driven by utility, discounts, and evolving spending preferences



STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Teaching and nursing: Not as stable as you would believe

Young primary teachers earn a median salary of ₹12,175 a month — less than a third of a software developer's ₹42,500. Most of them also lack basic protections



'Strictly formal' = written contract + paid leave + social security. Regular salaried workers aged 21–34 Source: PLFS 2024

I-T raids on Mamata's proposer & TMC pick raise WB poll heat

Didi Calls BJP 'Spineless Cowards', Says Ballots, Not Bullets, Win

Rohit Khanna, Dwaipayan Ghosh & Saikat Ray | TNN

Kolkata: Income tax officials on Friday raided Mamata Banerjee's poll nomination proposer, Miraj Shah, and TMC candidate Debashis Kumar, prompting the Bengal CM to call BJP "spineless cowards".

Shah was Banerjee's proposer in Kolkata's Bhowanipore. Kumar is seeking re-election from Rashbehari, a high-profile constituency nearby.

DANCE of DEMOCRACY: PAGE 15

Debobrata Shome

Central force jawans at Kumar's house on Friday (L); Miraj Shah's residence

The I-T raids mark a significant escalation of the face-off between the Centre and the Banerjee-led TMC govt less than a week before the state votes in the first phase on April 23. "BJP will have to answer for this. You cannot play a dirty game. Ballots, not bullets, win polls," Banerjee said, calling the raids a "shameless and brazen act" by those who "cannot fight from the front".

The raids on the Elgin Road residence of businessman Shah, also a trustee of one of the state's biggest private educational institutions, became a talking point. But the bigger showdown unfolded at Kumar's home.

A team of I-T officers reached Kumar's Manoharpukur Road residence at 5am. According to local residents, central force jawans accompanying the I-T officers jumped over the locked gate to knock on the door. The I-T officials followed and started a search-and-interrogation session that lasted nearly 15 hours.

While one I-T team scoured Kumar's home, another reached his election office a few metres away. A third team went to his mother-in-law's flat in the neighbourhood. A fourth reached a TMC office nearby and a fifth raided the house of Kumar Saha, a close associate.

"I don't know what they found. All I know is I lost a day of campaigning. The outcome of these raids will be known on May 4. This will only help me," Kumar said after the I-T team left around 8pm.

ED had earlier questioned him twice in a land grab and illegal construction case.

A lawyer who arrived at the house was denied entry. Kumar had a Friday deadline to submit poll-related expenditure. But his agent, Rakesh Kamath, who came to get documents signed was also stopped. Soon, TMC workers arrived and started protesting. By noon, locals had joined them.

Sensing the situation was getting tense, Kumar sent out instructions that there should be no trouble.

"The I-T officers have the right to interrogate politicians, not harass them. I won't leave till Kumar is freed from their clutches," said Jayanta Manna, his childhood friend. Neighbours also waited for the I-T officers to exit. "This is simply harassment," said Supriti Maitra, a model who stays close by.

Keki Mistry-led panel will review Nashik probe: TCS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: TCS CEO K Krithivasan on Friday said the company had constituted an oversight committee chaired by independent director Keki Mistry to review the investigation at its Nashik unit, which is under scrutiny over allegations of sexual harassment and religious coercion of employees.

Krithivasan said while detailed reviews were ongoing, a preliminary examination of systems and records had not revealed any complaints of the alleged nature through its ethics or POSH channels.

TCS said it had acted swiftly upon learning of the case, adding that employees under investigation had been suspended pending inquiry.

The company has also engaged expert teams from Deloitte and legal counsel Trilegal as independent advisers to the internal probe led by president and COO Aarthi Subramanian. The findings will be presented to the oversight committee for review and implementation of recommendations.

TCS has also clarified that a person who has been "repeatedly" referred to as an HR manager is neither an HR manager nor responsible for recruitment. "She served as a process associate and held no leadership responsibilities," the statement said.

The company added that its Nashik unit continued to operate normally and dismissed reports of a shutdown as entirely untrue.

"TCS holds itself to the highest standards of employee welfare and institutional conduct. We remain fully committed to the safety, dignity, and well-being of every employee. As we have stated before, we have a zero-tolerance policy towards any form of coercion or misconduct," it said, adding that it would continue to support employees and ensure a safe workplace across locations.

The company also said it would extend full cooperation to law enforcement agencies to ensure the matter was investigated thoroughly, transparently, and brought to a rightful conclusion.

Earlier this week, Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran had said the allegations emerging from the TCS Nashik branch were "gravely concerning and anguishing".

Cops quiz husband of TCS staffer on her whereabouts

Thane/Nashik: A team from Nashik crime branch on Friday reached Mumbra in Thane district in search of a 26-year-old TCS employee accused of subjecting a co-worker to religious harassment, report **Nishikant Karlikar & Abhilash Botekar.** Originally from Nashik, the woman recently moved to Mumbai after her husband joined a private company there as a logistics officer.

Nashik police detained her husband from his office. Till last reports came in, he was being questioned to ascertain her whereabouts and gather further details related to the case. A Mumbra police officer told TOI, "Her husband told investigators that a relative took her back to Nashik a couple of days ago."

An officer said, "Our team visited the relative's place, but it was locked and their phones were switched off."

She is now preparing to file an anticipatory bail plea before a Nashik sessions court, citing pregnancy as one of the grounds for relief, her lawyer, Baba Sayyad, told TOI.

The SIT probing the cases has formed three teams to trace the woman.

Sukesh case: Jacqueline seeks to turn approver

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday sought a response from Enforcement Directorate (ED) on a plea by actor **Jacqueline Fernandez** seeking to turn approver in a Rs 200-crore money laundering case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar.

Special judge Prashant Sharma issued the notice to the agency and listed the matter for hearing on April 20. The development comes amid proceedings in the high-profile case, where Fernandez was named as an accused for the first time in a supplementary chargesheet filed by ED.

The actor had earlier challenged the Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) before Delhi High Court, which dismissed her petition on July 3 last year. Subsequently, Supreme Court also declined to interfere with the high court's order, effectively allowing the investigation to proceed. TNN

'Can't take easy option and leave for my comfort'

▶ Continued from page 1

Around 2,000 Indian medical students returned to India in phases after the war started on Feb 28. For Gulzar, life around him remained stable and essential supplies were available despite the conflict. He said internet connectivity in Iran was very poor and he was using a paid VPN borrowed from an Iranian friend so he could remain in touch with his family. "When innocent people are suffering, I cannot choose the easy option and leave only for my own comfort," Asif Gulzar said.

Fond of reading revolutionaries such as Bhagat Singh, Gulzar said he had drawn from the idea that silence in the face of oppression amounted to complicity. With classes suspended for now, he said he had been spending time reading the works of thinkers and revolutionaries. Nasir Khuehami, national convenor of the Jammu & Kashmir Students Association, said almost all of the 1,200 students from Kashmir had returned.

Allahabad HC orders FIR against Rahul in 'dual citizenship' case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: The Lucknow bench of Allahabad HC Friday directed UP Police to file an FIR against Congress MP **Rahul Gandhi** for allegedly concealing his British citizenship. The single-member bench of Justice Subhash Vidyarthi also permitted the state govt to hand the probe over to a central agency.

The HC said a prima facie cognisable offence was made out against Rahul and hence the allegations required investigation. The order came after the deputy solicitor general submitted documents on the court's direction.

Petitioner Vignesh Shishir, a BJP worker from Karnataka, has alleged that Rahul declared his nationality as British while incorporating a company called M/S Backops Ltd there in Aug 2003, and that the MP had London and Hampshire addresses. Shishir claimed Rahul submitted the company's annual returns in Oct 2005 and Oct 2006, listing his nationality as British then as well. The company was dissolved in Feb 2009.

He sought an FIR against Rahul under BNS, Official Secrets Act, Foreigners Act and Passport Act.

The HC bench set aside a Jan 2025 ruling by the special MP/MLA court in Lucknow which refused to order the registration of an FIR.

Earlier, deputy solicitor general SB Pandey produced the central govt's records on the controversy. According to the petitioner, the material includes records suggesting Rahul may have been listed as a voter in the UK.

Nine tourists from Kerala die in TN accident

Coimbatore: Nine tourists from Kerala died and four others suffered serious injuries after the van they were travelling in veered off the Valparai-Pollachi ghat road and plunged several hundred feet into a deep gorge on Friday evening. The accident took place at the 13th hairpin bend under the Kadamparai police station limits around 5.15pm.

The victims were part of a 13-member tourist group, including the driver, from Perinthalmanna in Kerala's Malappuram district. They were returning from Valparai after a sightseeing trip. TNN

Built on sacrifice, a house for Pahalgam's brave pony-wallah

Ajay Sura & Naseer Ganai | TNN

Pahalgam ONE YEAR LATER

Haptnar (Anantnag): His scorched hands and bullet-riddled body told a story of courage and sacrifice. Pony-wallah Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who grabbed a terrorist's rifle barrel to save tourists during the horrific massacre in Pahalgam's Baisaran Valley last year, came to embody Kashmir's spirit and India's soul in his final act of selflessness.

Adil was the sole breadwinner of his family when he was killed on April 22, 2025. In the past year, his family has lived through a stark and complex transformation — from a life defined by daily uncertainty and frugal living to one of relative financial stability, even as they grapple with irreplaceable loss.

Once living in a fragile 40-year-old house of mud and wood, they are waiting to move into a newly constructed one-storey home adjoining the old structure. Costing Rs 10-12 lakh, the house was funded by Maharashtra deputy chief minister and Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde's party. The family says Shinde is expected to visit them on the first anniversary of the attack, after which they plan to shift into the new residence.

In addition, the family has received about Rs 20 lakh in financial assistance from govt sources and other organisations. Even Adil's widow, Nazim, has been given a permanent job in the fisheries department, while his brother Nazakat has secured a daily-wage job with the Waqf Board. Another brother, Naushad, who once drove taxis, now owns a cab worth around Rs 12 lakh. "We have no dearth of money now, but we miss Adil," his father, Syed Haider Shah, said. "My son would earn around Rs 300-600 a day and we were happy with it," he said. "He sacrificed his life for humanity. Tourists trusted us when they came to Pahalgam, and he tried to save them," he said.

Bilal Bahadur

Syed Adil Hussain Shah's parents Syed Haider Shah (in pic) & Babyjaan, will move into the new house soon

Sitting outside the newly built house, Haider says he feels a sense of pride when people from across the country visit and acknowledge his son's courage. "He lost his life, but he made ours more secure," he said. Haidar says he is aware that opinions about his son differ within Kashmir and beyond. Haider, who is fluent in Pahari, Kashmiri and Urdu, says people from across the country continue to visit the family to offer condolences. "People in the Valley value what he did by saving tourists and giving his life for their safety," he says. "But those from outside Jammu and Kashmir perhaps understand his sacrifice more deeply. They see that he did not think on religious lines and gave his life for others."

He pointed out that there were scores of people present in Baisaran that day who managed to escape. "My son could also have saved himself. But he didn't. His conscience didn't allow it and I am proud of it," he says.

"That day was the heaviest day of our lives. *Woh qayamat ka din tha,*" he says, almost in a whisper. "When I heard there was firing in Baisaran, I started calling him. He didn't answer. As there is no network there, I thought he would answer. I kept calling till around 4 or 4.30 pm. At 6pm, when there was still no response, I went to Ashmuqam police station and told them my son was missing. They asked me to go home."

He falls silent for a while; then, with a deep sigh, he says: "When I reached home, I was informed by police that my son's body was in Pahalgam hospital..." Haidar stops there, his eyes filled with tears.

When the family reached Srinagar hospital to collect Adil's body, a female tourist who had lost a family member said Adil had tried his best to save them by snatching a gun from the terrorists.

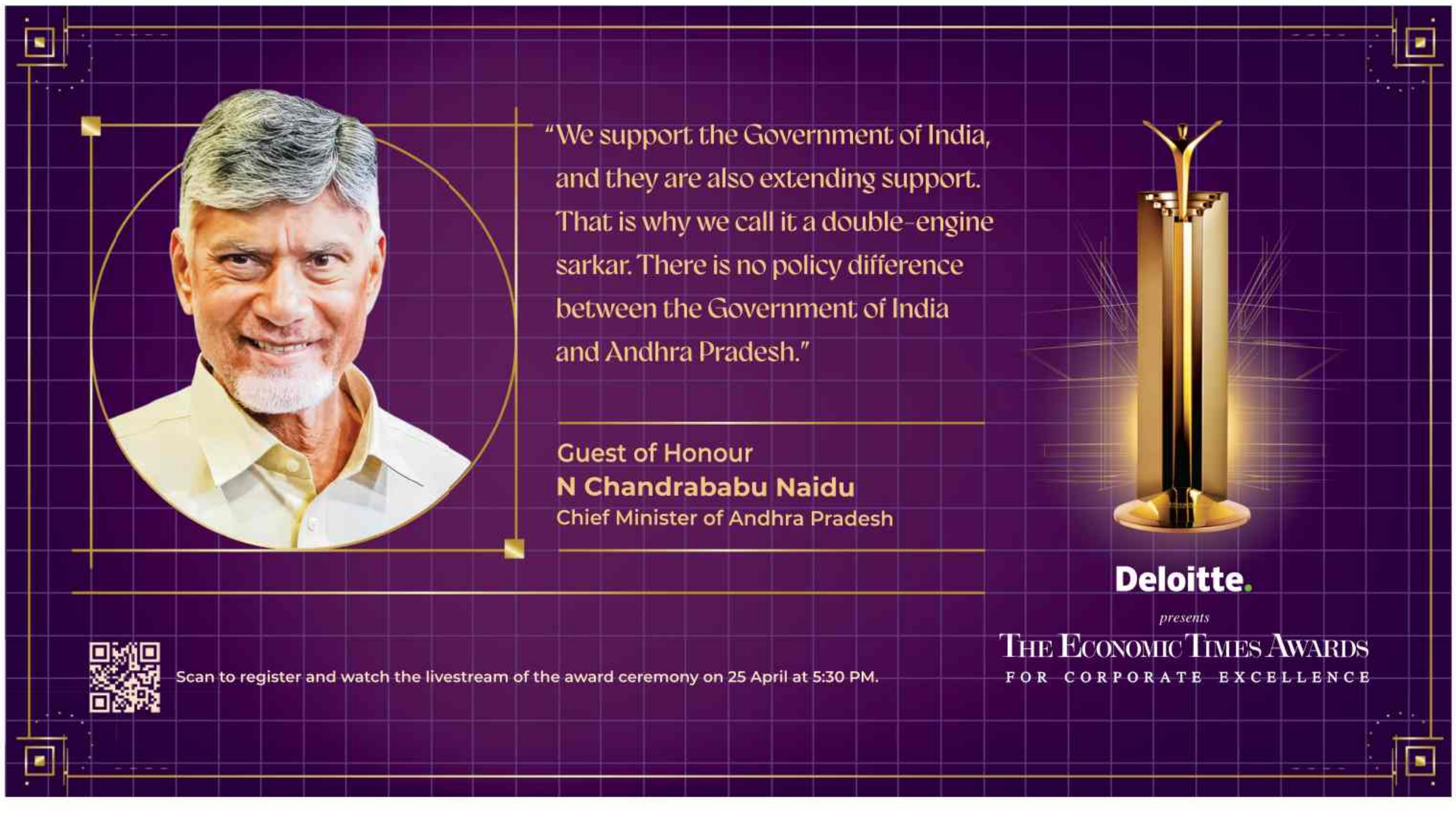
Material discloses a disturbing pattern: SC

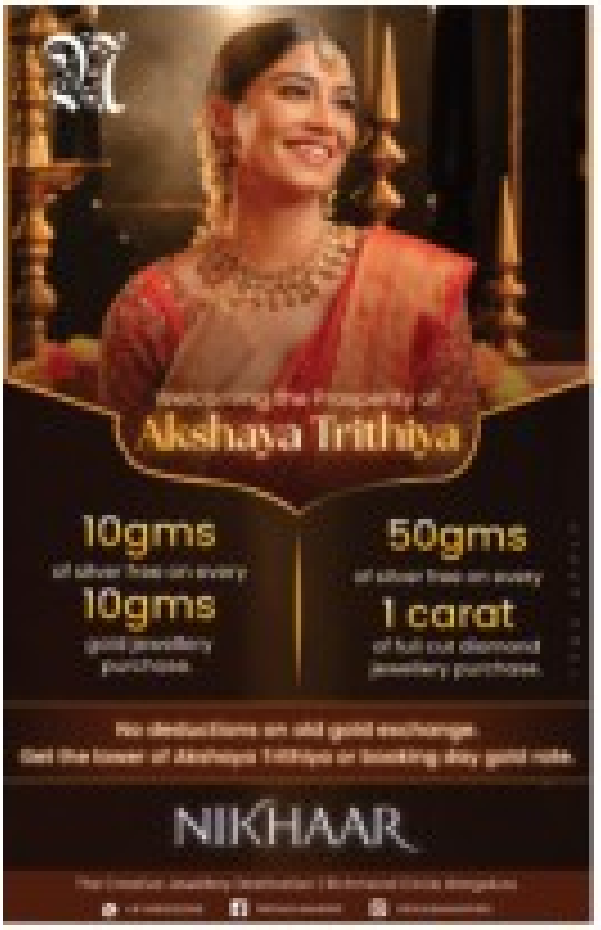
▶ Continued from page 1

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta on Friday passed a slew of directions to MP, UP and Rajasthan, including installation of high-resolution, wi-fi enabled CCTV cameras on all routes frequently used for illegal sand mining and monitoring of footage round-the-clock, besides confiscation of vehicles and machinery used for mining.

"It is indeed a matter of grave and serious concern that state authorities, who are entrusted with the solemn duty of enforcing the rule of law and protecting public resources, appear to have abdicated, if not altogether abandoned, their statutory and constitutional responsibilities. The circumstances, taken as a whole, may even warrant an inference of tacit connivance. The material placed before us discloses a disturbing pattern of inaction and administrative indifference, despite the issue having been repeatedly highlighted before various fora," the bench said.

The court noted that there were cases where state govt officials were killed by sand mafia, which reflected a systemic and institutional failure to discharge state's obligations under law.




Welcoming the Prosperity of
Akshaya Trithiya
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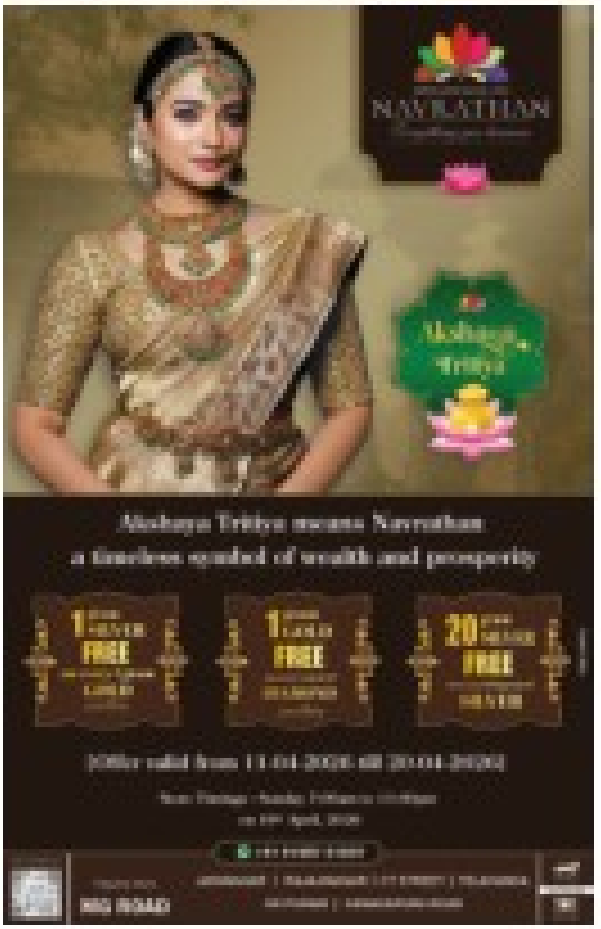
No deductions on old gold exchange.
Get the lower of Akshaya Trithiya or booking day gold rate.
NIKHAAR


NAVRATTAN
Akshaya Trithiya
Akshaya Trithiya means Navratan
a timeless symbol of wealth and prosperity
1 FREE
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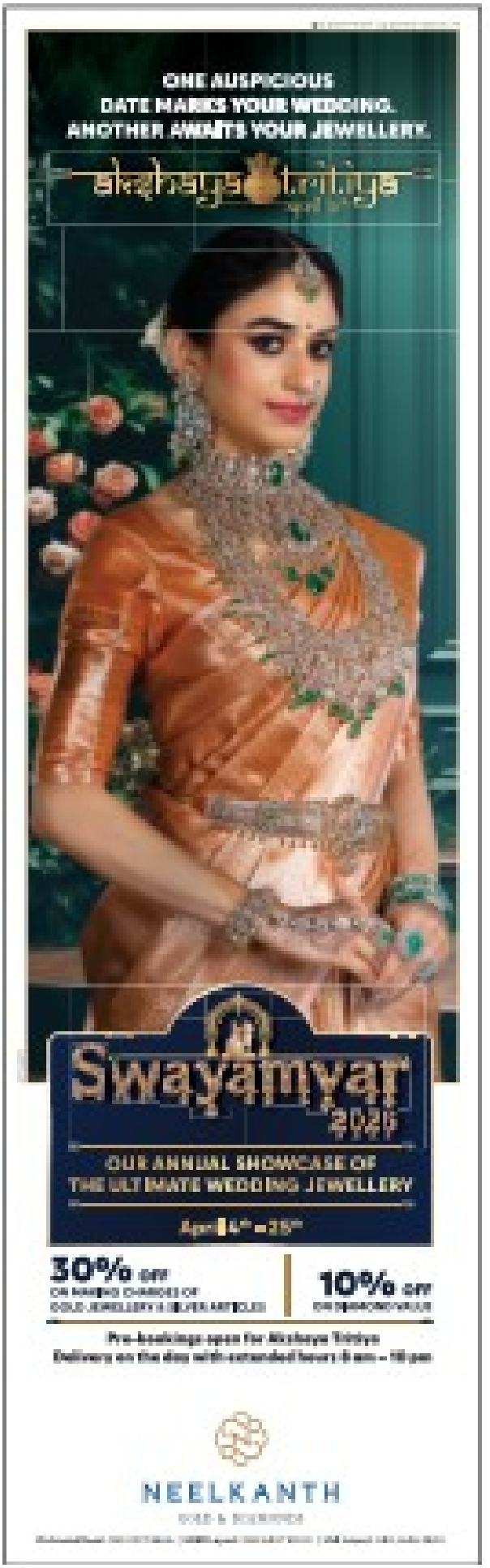
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NEELKANTH

You will have no place to hide in elections, Shah tells oppn

'We Will Go By Sense Of House On Caste Quota'

Kumar.Rakesh
@timesofindia.com

MAKING A POINT: Union home minister Amit Shah during the special session of Parliament on Friday as Dharmendra Pradhan looks on

New Delhi: Replying to the debate on the constitutional amendment bills for women's reservation and delimitation, Union home minister Amit Shah said two primary reasons behind the bills were to ensure a time-bound rollout of women's reservation by 2029 and to implement in true spirit the idea of "one person, one vote, one value".

Shah said the Malkajgiri LS seat in Telangana had more than 39 lakh voters, emphasising that 127 constituencies have more than 20 lakh voters. He rejected the opposition's charge that delimitation will result in southern states having less weight in LS. On average, an LS seat in the south has far fewer voters than those in the north.

On caste quota, Shah said, "BJP govt will go by the collective sense of Parliament. Let there be no doubt." For BJP, representation and participation of people (in legislatures) of the country is most important, he said, in what marked a rare willingness to engage on the issue.

He, however, ruled out quota for Muslims, saying it is violative of the Constitution. "We will not allow anyone to implement this."

Striking a combative note on women's quota, the home minister, like the PM had on Thursday, warned opposition of a backlash. "If you do not vote in support of the bill, it will fall through, but women of the country are seeing who is the obstacle in their way. You will have no place to hide in elections. Opposition will face the wrath of women, not only in the 2029 LS elections but also at every level, in every election, and at every place."

Later, he took to X to berate the opposition for celebrating the defeat of the bills.

The most dramatic moment during his reply came when he accepted the demand of Congress MP K C Venugopal to write into the bill that seats in every state will go up by 50%. However, he was quick to reject Venugopal's other demand that the women's reservation bill be delinked from delimitation, saying it is an "enticing trap" to deny quota to women in 2029.

He took head-on Rahul Gandhi's claim about Congress being a supporter of OBC cause. "Congress is the most anti-OBC party," Shah said listing decisions like non-implementation of the recommendations of the Kalelkar Commission for OBC reservation under Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi not acting on the Mandal Commission's recommendations, and Rajiv Gandhi opposing the same.

Congress never made an OBC community member the Prime Minister while BJP, in Modi, has given the country a PM from extremely backward caste, he said.

Congress and its allies in the INDIA bloc have a history of scuttling legislative proposal for the reservation five times since the idea was first mooted during the P V Narasimha Rao govt, and it at times leant on its allies to sink the proposal, he said while also recalling the opposition party's stand over the Shah Bano verdict and triple talaq. He said Congress has reflexively opposed all signature initiatives of Modi govt — from scrapping of special status for J&K to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Defeat for delimitation, not women's reservation, says a triumphant oppn

Oppn questions anomaly over 2023 law notification

Times News Network

New Delhi: A triumphant opposition hailed the fall of the constitutional amendment bill as a defeat for delimitation and not women's reservation.

After the opposition prevailed in voting, Congress' Rahul Gandhi spoke with TMC's Abhishek Banerjee and thanked him for the support.

There was concern that only a few of the 28 TMC MPs may turn up in Parliament because of poll campaign in Bengal. But TMC sent 21 MPs after repeated requests from INDIA bloc members who impressed upon Mamata Banerjee that presence in debate and voting was important to thwart the Modi govt's plan. Sources said Banerjee told Rahul, "The tide is turning against BJP".

SP's Akhilesh Yadav called it a "defeat of BJP's malice". RSP's N K Premachandran said the bill's failure to pass shows that BJP must consult with opposition on important issues concerning the nation. "This defeat is not of women's quota but of delimitation by the backdoor," he said.

Congress' Priyanka Gandhi Vadra accused PM Modi of maliciously linking women's quota to delimitation based on the 2011 census. "But his hollow attempt to pose as the messiah of women has failed today," she said. She added that if the three bills had passed in Parliament, democracy in India would not have survived.

> **... His (the PM's) hollow attempt to pose as the messiah of women has failed today**
>
> **PRIYANKA GANDHI VADRA**
> Lok Sabha MP from Wayanad

CPI MP Sandosh Kumar said the fall of govt legislation shows there is a strong opposition to any attempt to change the balance of representation. He said the women of the country must see through the BJP's approach of delaying women's quota by linking it to the census and delimitation.

DMK chief M K Stalin, who led the protests in Tamil Nadu, said his party's concern was about delimitation, "which requires careful thought to ensure it is fair, especially for southern states". He said govt should have delinked women's quota from delimitation.

Times News Network

K C Venugopal and Kanimozhi

New Delhi: Opposition members in the Lok Sabha questioned on Friday govt's decision to move a bill to amend the 2023 women's quota law before bringing the principal Act into force and sought a clarification from law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal over the procedural lapse.

Congress MP K C Venugopal pointed out the law ministry's notification issued late last night to bring into force the 2023 law with effect from April 16, much after a bill to amend the Act was introduced and discussed in the House.

"We are witnessing an extraordinary constitutional anomaly... Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, passed in Sept 2023, has come into force with being published in the Gazette only at 9.55pm last night," he posted on X. He said, "It is shocking that govt brought amendments to a constitutional provision that was not even published in the Gazette! This shows govt's unprepared and lackadaisical approach to serious lawmaking."

Though the 2023 Constitution amendment bill became a law, it did not become part of the Constitution as the govt did not bring it into force by notifying a date for its coming into force.

DMK's Kanimozhi too flagged the issue during the debate. She hit back at PM Modi for his 'kala teeka' swipe at her party's protest over the women's quota law amendment, saying black is the colour of goddess Kali and Tamil Nadu's governing party will protest over the issue till the end.

Why bring a bill that would fail? Several theories do the rounds

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New Delhi: When the Constitution amendment bill fell through, there was one basic question in the minds of all — Why did the Modi govt bring a bill it knew would face an unbreachable wall of a two-third majority in Parliament? There were theories galore regarding the intent. But none was wiser.

Many in BJP felt PM Modi pushed the bill because it would strengthen the party's position among women who, in any case, "have tended to favour us over our opponents in elections since 2014". The bill was, of course, defeated, but it brought out who are in support of women's quota and who are not.

"Their charges were exposed as lies. That opposition did not budge despite Amit Shah's offer to write a guarantee about South's share in the law showed they had manufactured a conspiracy," said a BJP source.

Opposition parties came up with their own conjectures. "There was some hidden agenda. What? I don't know," said a senior Tamil Nadu politician. SP's Akhilesh Yadav echoed a vast majority of opposition members when he said coupling of women's bill with delimitation was designed to push one under the cover of the other.

The dominant theory among opposition was a conspiracy cocktail that cited women's quota, delimitation and OBC census. Some believe the bill would have relieved pressure to grant another OBC quota, given that "social justice" issues have become a red rag for BJP's social base of upper castes, as was evident from their incendiary reaction to UGC guidelines.

TDP & JDS join other NDA allies in backing bills

Anti-women oppn mindset exposed: BJP

Times News Network

New Delhi: NDA allies offered full support to the three bills during the Lok Sabha debate on Friday.

Southern ally TDP's floor leader Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu said his party would back the bills to pave way for delimitation and women's reservation, based on the "guarantee" given by home minister Amit Shah and PM Modi.

He referred to Shah's remarks in the House on Thursday that there would be a 50% proportionate increase in seats in each state, with LS seats in Andhra Pradesh expected to rise from 25 to 38.

Extending support, JDS's H D Kumaraswamy termed DMK's opposition to the women's bill amendment as "fear mongering", saying it was misleading to claim southern states would lose out. He added that Congress had lost touch with the grassroots and was unprepared for the changes the bills would bring.

Other allies also backed the bills. Union minister and JDU neta Rajiv Ranjan Singh said the amendment was not rushed, noting the govt took three years after groundwork. Union minister Anupriya Patel said the bills offered an opportunity to create history and urged all members to support them.

HD Kumaraswamy and Rajnath Singh

Highlighting that the bill was not a piece of legislation but an opportunity to empower women, defence minister Rajnath Singh said, "PM Modi has appealed to all political parties to rise above partisan considerations and follow their conscience, but opposition chose to sacrifice women empowerment and respect for them for their narrow selfish ends. Country will always remember this." He added the decision exposed the gap between opposition's professed intent and conduct, and said NDA would continue to work for women.

Commerce minister Piyush Goyal and education minister Dharmendra Pradhan also slammed the opposition. "A disgraceful scene unfolded in the LS... to block the passage of the crucial bill," Goyal said. Pradhan said Congress had shown "bankruptcy" and an "anti-women approach", dismissing resistance to delimitation as unconstitutional. TNN

You're wrapping a gift to women in barbed wire, says Tharoor

Times News Network

New Delhi: Congress MP **Shashi Tharoor** on Friday said in the Lok Sabha that PM Narendra Modi has wrapped the gift of justice to "nari shakti" in "barbed wire" by linking the implementation of women's reservation to the expansion of Parliament, and warned that delimitation could turn into "political demonetisation".

"You have proposed delimitation with such haste, the same haste that you showed on demonetisation. Unfortunately, we all know what damage that did to the country. Delimitation will turn out to be political demonetisation. Do not do it, sir," the Thiruvananthapuram MP said while participating in a debate on three bills.

He demanded that delimitation be deferred, arguing that linking women's reservation to it holds the aspirations of Indian women hostage to "one of the most contentious and complex" administrative exercises in the country's history.

In this context, Tharoor outlined "three major faultlines" — the balance between small and big states; the balance between states, particularly in the south like Kerala and Tamil Nadu that have implemented population control and invested in human development, and those mainly in the north; and the balance between states that are engines of the economy, contributing more to the national exchequer than they receive, and those that are net recipients of central funds.

"I urge govt to decouple these issues and pass the women's reservation bill today; we will support it. Let it take effect in the next LS polls using the current seat count," he added.

Rahul turns storyteller, tells LS of his fears & about a magician

Times News Network

New Delhi: 'Magician, garden and grandmom' — Rahul Gandhi on Friday left Lok Sabha reeling with his storytelling on how his grandmother took him to their garden to remove his fear of darkness and about a magician losing his tricks after a failed act.

In a banter during a debate on the bills related to women's quota, the leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha also went on to say PM Modi and he didn't have "the wife issue", as he emphasised that everyone has learnt from women in their lives.

As Rahul continued with his magician analogy, apparently aimed at the PM, the treasury benches protested, disrupting proceedings. Amid the uproar, defence minister Rajnath Singh demanded Rahul be asked to apologise for his "derogatory remarks".

Speaker Om Birla asked Rahul not to digress from the topic, leading Congress functionaries to demand that he be allowed to continue.

LoP Rahul Gandhi went on to say PM Narendra Modi and he didn't have 'the wife issue'

Rahul said, "I remember that when I was a little boy, I was afraid of the dark. We had a huge dog that would often attack my sister and me. One day, my grandmother found out about this... She took me to the garden, left me there, and said, 'Don't be afraid.' I watched her walk away and I didn't have the courage to tell her that I didn't want to stay there. For me, those few minutes felt like hours. I imagined snakes, dogs... everything that scared me."

"My grandmother came back and asked, 'What are you scared of?' I said, 'I am scared of that dog; I am scared of everything.' She said, 'You aren't scared of dogs, bats or the dark. You are scared of your mind, your imagination, and your thoughts," Rahul said as the Speaker looked befuddled.

Birla insisted Rahul go back to the topic, but he wasn't relenting: "Then she told me, 'You shouldn't be afraid of the dark, because truth most often lies in darkness. If you don't have the courage to face your fears, you will never be able to understand or fight for the truth."

Rahul did not cease at that. "Truth is the magician has been caught — the magician of Balakot; the magician of demonetisation; and the magician of Operation Sindoor," he added.

Rahul talks of April 16, BJP reminds him of April 17 history

Times News Network

New Delhi: After Rahul Gandhi concluded his speech in Lok Sabha on Friday 'posing a puzzle' for MPs to consider "what happened on April 16", BJP's **Nishikant Dubey** got up to counter the Congress neta saying it is April 17 that is significant.

Gandhi had already left the Parliament by then despite former Cabinet minister Anurag Thakur raising a House rule that binds a speaker, after he concludes, to be present and listen to the next speaker.

"It was on this day that Rajiv Gandhi was accused in the Bofors (bribery) scandal," Dubey began, reminding Congress of its "dark history".

"On April 17, 1998, who pulled down the dhoti of Sitaram Kesri ji, the Congress president from the backward class? Who shoved him out of the party's Akbar Road headquarters?" Dubey asked.

He referred to an instance involving SP MP Yashvir Singh being "beaten by Sonia Gandhi" in this House in the well while opposing SC/ST quota bill. "Congress has always insulted women, backward classes, and Dalits; today it opposed women's reservation bill — parties supporting Congress should learn from Cong's history. In India, all people have progressed through hard work, but Congress wants to progress by dividing the nation," he added.

Concluding his speech, which was interspersed with protests from the treasury benches objecting to his remarks, Gandhi said he wanted to pose a puzzle for "all of you".

"Yesterday, PM was low on energy. Suddenly, I noticed it was the 16th of April. My God, how crazy! The number: Sixteen. The whole answer to the riddle is 16. If anybody understands this, they should send me a message," Gandhi said.

Hiding behind women, you are trying to rejig political map: Rahul

▶ Continued from P 1

Learn from Priyanka: Shah advice to Rahul

Home minister Amit Shah accused Rahul Gandhi of frequently violating parliamentary decorum in his speeches. "Rahul calls Modi a coward and says he fears him," Shah noted, recalling instances of the LoP blowing a flying kiss and winking in the House. "You (Rahul) should learn how to speak in Parliament from your senior colleagues. If not from them, you can learn from **Priyanka Gandhi Vadra** ji," he said. TNN

Rahul Gandhi said his party is willing to vote in favour of the amendment bill if govt brings the original 2023 Act for implementation. "It is a historical fact how Indian society treated Dalits and OBCs and their women. What is being attempted here is a bypass of the caste census. They are trying to avoid giving power and representation to my OBC brothers and sisters and instead take power away from them," Gandhi said, referring to BJP's approach as "Manuvaad over Samvidhaan".

Accusing BJP of neglecting OBCs and Dalits, he said, "You call them 'Hindus', but you don't give them any space in the power structure."

Gandhi said, "This is not a women's bill; this has nothing to do with empowerment of women. This bill is an attempt to change the country's electoral map, using and hiding behind India's women."

He called the delimitation bill "dangerous" and "anti-national" and said it had been brought out of the fear of losing power. "You are now trying to rejig India's political map," he told BJP, accusing the party of using delimitation in its favour in J&K and Assam. Congress will never allow such plans, he said.

"There is a fundamental confusion in the minds of BJP. They think they are the people of India and armed forces," he said, asking the party to stop hiding behind the people and the forces.

US model: Population in one House, equality in the other

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As the debate on size and composition of the Lok Sabha continues, the United States offers an interesting contrast. It does not keep enlarging its lower house every time population shifts. The United States House of Representatives has been capped at 435 seats since 1929, but after every decennial census those seats are redistributed among the states according to population, with each state guaranteed at least one seat. Over time, that has changed the balance quite a bit: states such as California, Florida and Texas have gained representation, while New York, Pennsylvania and Illinois have lost it.

But the real American safeguard lies in the other chamber. Every state — big or small — gets two Senators, regardless of the population. That arrangement emerged from the 1787 constitutional compromise between the large and small states. Since the Seventeenth Amendment, Senators have been directly elected by the people.

India's system is different. The Lok Sabha is population-based, and the Rajya Sabha too is only partly federal: bigger states still get a much larger voice there than smaller ones. That is why any future delimitation here can reopen not just the question of voter equality, but also the federal balance between states.

There is also a separate political question. If the immediate goal is women's representation, why must it require a 50% jump in Lok Sabha seats? Could 33% reservation be accommodated within the present ceiling, or better still, could major parties simply commit to giving half their tickets to women?

TOP 10 GAINER AND LOSER STATES IN US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State	1930 Census	2020 Census	Gain/ Loss
California	20	52	32
Florida	5	28	23
Texas	21	38	17
Arizona	1	9	8
Colorado	4	8	4
Georgia	10	14	4
Washington	6	10	4
Nevada	1	4	3
North Carolina	11	14	3
Oregon	3	6	3
New York	45	26	-19
Pennsylvania	34	17	-17
Illinois	27	17	-10
Ohio	24	15	-9
Massachusetts	15	9	-6
Iowa	9	4	-5
Missouri	13	8	-5
Michigan	17	13	-4
Oklahoma	9	5	-4
West Virginia	6	2	-4

Source: US Census Bureau

Reflect on your conscience, urged Modi ahead of vote

▶ Continued from P 1

For nearly four decades, the issue of women's quota in legislative bodies has been inordinately delayed, PM Modi said

Though there have been instances in the past when the Modi govt has walked back its legislative initiatives — such as the farm laws that were repealed in 2021 due to unrelenting protests from a section of farmers — this is the first time when its bill has been defeated in the Parliament.

A day after Modi largely struck a non-partisan note to reach out to opposition parties for their support while warning them against women's anger if they did not, Shah was combative in his reply to the two-day-long marathon discussion as the bill's fate became clear.

"Let the House be adjourned for an hour; I have the amendment prepared and will come back with the amended bill," he said to stress govt's commitment to raising LS seats in every state by 50% and dismiss the opposition's allegation of discrimination against south India.

BJP raced to paint Congress and other INDIA bloc members "anti-women" as women MPs of the governing NDA protested amid a drizzle in Parliament complex soon after the bill promising quota from 2029 was defeated. NDA members also held a meeting and are expected to launch a protest against their opponents.

Ahead of voting, Modi made an impassioned appeal to MPs to "reflect on your conscience" and remember women in their family to give women their rightful due and ensure the bill's unanimous passage. "Govt has addressed all apprehensions and misconceptions related to the legislation with facts and logic. All concerns have been addressed and any gaps in information have also been filled," he said.

For nearly four decades, he said, this issue of women's reservation in legislative bodies has been inordinately delayed. Even after so many decades of independence, it is not right that women in India have such limited representation in this area, he added.

"On behalf of Nari Shakti, I request all members not to do anything that may hurt the sentiments of women across India. Crores of women are watching us, our intent and our decisions. I once again request that everyone support the amendments to Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam," he said.

As the bill failed to pass in LS and two other bills, including one for setting up a delimitation commission, no longer needed, these will not be tabled in RS. Parliament is likely to adjourn sine die when it meets Saturday, the last day of the extended Budget session.

Women's quota law comes into effect in UTs of J&K, Puducherry

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New Delhi: After notifying April 16, 2026, as the date from which the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 — providing one-third seats in the House of the People and legislative assemblies of all states and UT of Delhi to be reserved for women — shall come into effect, the govt Friday notified April 17, 2026, as the date from which women's quota provisions in relevant laws for UTs of J&K and Puducherry, also enacted in 2023, will come into force.

The MHA issued a gazette notification for the purpose.

Parliament had enacted the 2023 Constitution amendment Act to pave the way for women's reservation in the House of the People, legislative assembly of every state and legislative assembly of Delhi.

Similar provisions for reservation for women in legislative assemblies of Puducherry and J&K were made via the Govt of Union Territories (Amendment) Act, 2023, and J&K Reorganisation (Second Amendment) Act, respectively.

On Friday, however, the three bills aimed at rollout of women's reservation in Lok Sabha and state legislatures — Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, Delimitation Bill, 2026, and Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 — from 2029 were defeated in the Lok Sabha.

The 2023 Constitution amendment Act and related amendments for J&K and Puducherry provide that women's reservation will become operative after the first delimitation based on the relevant census following the Acts' commencement. The relevant exercise would be Census 2027, scheduled from April 1, 2026, to March 1, 2027.

Jewellery gets a tech makeover

Gold buying may be timeless, but jewellery design is rapidly evolving. This Akshaya Tritiya, tradition meets technology like never before, where every tech bite pieces reflects not just craftsmanship, but cutting-edge innovation

What's shining on the wish list?

A little gold goes a long way

From tiny coins to delicate rings, this season's buys are less about grandeur and more about immediacy, accessibility and sentiment

Top court nixes Khera's plea against arrest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday refused Congress neta **Pawan Khera's** plea for interim protection from arrest till Tuesday and asked him to seek anticipatory bail from the court in Assam where an FIR against him has been filed by Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma's wife.

A bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and A S Chandukar refused to tinker with its order passed on Wednesday when it had stayed the Telangana HC order of granting him transit anticipatory bail.

Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Khera, said he was ready to move court in Assam but pleaded for protection for five days as the petition can be filed only on Monday.

But the bench turned down the plea, saying that he can file a petition on Friday or Saturday and he can request for an urgent hearing even if the court concerned was not working.

AIADMK banks on TN's richest candidate in Lalgudi

Leema, Wife Of Lottery Baron Santiago Martin, Was Surprise Candidate

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PTI

Actor-politician Kamal Haasan during a campaign in support of TN deputy chief minister Udhayanidhi Stalin in Chennai Friday

Trichy: The narrow rural road to V Thuraiyur, a remote hamlet 15km north of Lalgudi, an agrarian pocket in central Tamil Nadu, is packed with villagers on either side as the campaign vehicle drives through. On the vehicle is AIADMK candidate **Leema Rose Martin**, wife of lottery baron Santiago Martin and the richest candidate in fray in Tamil Nadu this time.

Her convoy halts when a family requests her to name their 15-day-old baby girl. Clad in a bright silk saree, Leema Rose steps out of the vehicle and obliges. "Leema Rose," she says, naming the child after herself, leaving the young mother beaming. It's a Hindu family, but the woman says she will not change the name given by Leema Rose. Such moments, and the enthusiastic reception, particularly from women voters, are beginning to unsettle DMK, which has held the Lalgudi seat for the past two decades.

BATTLEGROUND TAMIL NADU

Lalgudi has been an important seat for DMK — Kanakilyanur, the native village of municipal administration minister K N Nehru, and Anbil, the native place of education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, are part of the constituency. DMK gambled by dropping four-time MLA A Soundara Pandian and fielded T Parivallal, a new face. The move has not gone down well with party workers.

Vijay's TVK has fielded former AIADMK minister Ku Pa Krishnan.

DMK nominated Parivallal hoping the party's grassroots presence will help him sail through. What it did not expect was AIADMK fielding Leema Rose. There was no opposition in AIADMK when Leema, who had joined the party in Feb this year, was given the ticket. The answer to the acceptance, and an enthusiastic campaign by AIADMK rank and file, lay in Leema's poll affidavit. She declared assets of Rs 1,049 crore.

Her family's assets, including that of husband Martin, are more than Rs 5,000 crore. Her net worth is way higher than the combined annual budget of Lalgudi municipality, and Pullambadi and Poovalur town panchayats located in the seat.

It is not money power alone that Leema is banking on. She hails from the Udayar community and follows Christianity, and Lalgudi has a fair share of both. Even before her candidature was announced, Leema had started her campaign. "AIADMK was also strong in Lalgudi, but DMK was winning because our past candidates did not offer a tough fight. Leema is filling that political vacuum," said a party functionary.

Sasikala, Ramadoss may play spoilsport for AIADMK

CLEAR MISSION AIPTMMK-PMK alliance fielded candidates in 122 seats. A few minor outfits are also part of the front

SEAT-SHARING BREAKUP

AIPTMMK 75 candidates
Around 35 seats in Thevar belt, stretching from Madurai to Tirunelveli

PMK (Ramadoss faction) 37 candidates
Majority of seats in the Vanniyar belt, from Cuddalore to Salem

Puthiya Tamilagam led by Dr K Krishnasamy has fielded candidates in 61 constituencies

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Chennai: Two weeks ago, in Madurai's Tirupparankundram constituency, V K Sasikala, the confidante of former Tamil Nadu CM late J Jayalalithaa, signalled a clear mission for the April 23 state assembly election: wooing thevars, a dominant OBC community in southern and central regions of the state, a bloc once seen as the backbone of AIADMK's support.

Through her campaign, Sasikala, who only last month founded a new outfit, All India Puratchi Thalaivar Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam, has consistently targeted AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami. Sasikala feels there are many in the community unhappy with EPS.

She has also tied up with PMK founder S Ramadoss. Both share a sense of betrayal — Sasikala was sidelined in AIADMK after Jaya's death while Ramadoss has lost control of the PMK to his son.

Sasikala has fielded 75 candidates, around 50% of them in the thevar belt. Ramadoss has fielded candidates in 37 constituencies across the vanniyar belt, including Dharmapuri, where his daughter-in-law Sowmiya Anbumani is in the fray. Vanniyars are a politically influential and numerically significant group in northern Tamil Nadu, comprising roughly 25% of the population.

Like Sasikala, the PMK veteran is also expected to play spoilsport for the AIADMK front as he is targeting his son Anbumani Ramadoss, president of PMK, which is part of the opposition alliance.

With the state witnessing a multi-cornered contest, even a split of around 1,000 votes could tilt results, say political observers. In 2021, the victory margin was less than 3,000 votes in 25 constituencies.

In his campaign, Ramadoss has been making emotional statements, accusing Anbumani of betraying him. His candidates continue their campaign targeting Anbumani more than political opponents.

"Sasikala's criticism of Palaniswami and his supporters over her removal from the party post will have an impact," said political critic Rajan Kurai Krishnan.

Khera should surrender, says Himanta

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Guwahati: After Supreme Court refused to extend the transit anticipatory bail protection for Congress neta Pawan Khera, granted to him by the Telangana HC, following an FIR filed in Assam, CM **Himanta Biswa Sarma** said it was time for Khera to "surrender before the law in Guwahati".

The SC ruling effectively opens the door for Assam Police to initiate action against Khera on Riniki Bhuyan Sharma's FIR for alleged defamation. Sarma had earlier expressed displeasure over how Khera was able to leave Guwahati soon after the FIR was filed, saying "this means Assam Police let him go".

Khera had alleged earlier this month that Riniki possessed several foreign passports.

HC junks EC decision to appoint asst profs as presiding officers

Srishti Lakhotia & Subrata Chattoraj | TNN

Kolkata: Calcutta HC Friday quashed the Election Commission's move to requisition assistant professors of state colleges for the duty of presiding officers at polling stations in Bengal, pulling up the poll panel for not placing any material to show why their deployment was unavoidable.

The order, however, will not apply to assistant professors who have already attained training and showed willingness to join. Justice Krishna Rao said despite being given repeated opportunities, the EC failed to produce any document to show the unavoidable circumstances on the basis of which it had taken the decision of appointing assistant professors as presiding officers.

The EC counsel told the court there are 90,000 booths, and 1,80,000 to 1,90,000 presiding officers are needed to be kept ready. Assignment of duty was given on March 19 and the writ was filed on April 8, the counsel said.

The petitioners' counsel, advocate Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, argued that ECI's circular dated Feb 16, 2010, categorically mentioned that Group A equivalent senior officers should not be drafted for 'polling duties' without specific reasons to be recorded in writing by the DEO, where such appointment becomes unavoidable.

ECI removes top cop

Less than two weeks before the assembly election in Salt Lake-New Town-Rajarhat, EC removed Bidhannagar police commissioner Murlidhar Sharma from office and appointed IPS Tripurari Atharva as the new CP. Atharva had previously been serving as director of the Economic Offences Wing, report **Dwaipayan Ghosh & Kaushik Pradhan.**

Kabir moves HC, seeks probe into video

Kolkata: Former Trinamool legislator and Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AJUP) chief **Humayun Kabir** moved Calcutta high court on Friday seeking a court-monitored probe into the 19-minute video purportedly featuring him and an unidentified man, reports **Subrata Chattoraj**. Kabir said the video, shared by Trinamool, which purportedly shows him saying he took money from BJP to mislead Bengal's Muslims, was part of a conspiracy to defame him. He claimed the video was AI-generated.

The matter has been mentioned before Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya's bench, which is likely to hear the matter on April 22.

The video showed Kabir purportedly telling a man that he had a covert understanding with BJP's Suvendu Adhikari that if he managed to win 70 to 80 seats, and the BJP 100 to 120 seats, Kabir would offer his support to BJP to form govt.

'Tribunal disposed of around 200 cases'

▶ Continued from page 1

SC has ruled that deleted voters from the constituencies going to the polls in the first phase can exercise their franchise in the upcoming elections if their appeals are cleared by April 21.

The deadline for the second phase, scheduled for April 29, is April 27.

According to an EC source, the tribunals, set up on SC's order, started work on April 13 and disposed of close to 200 cases by Thursday. But Bengal's chief electoral officer (CEO) Manoj Agarwal said he has no information on how many cases have been disposed of so far or how many have been approved. "Tribunal functioning is totally independent of EC and CEO's office. Until the dashboard is ready, I cannot say how many cases have been disposed of by the tribunals. EC is trying its best to launch the dashboard as soon as possible," he added.

All 19 tribunals, each headed by a retired judge, are functioning from an institute in Kolkata's Joka.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, 1st Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-1/BSWML/Tend-1/2026-27 Date: 16.04.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)- Call-3 (Through GOK KPPP only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites tenders from Waste pickers/ Self Help Groups/ Non-Government Organisations/C&T Contractors for the operation and maintenance of Dry Waste Collection Centres for a period of 5 years. The interested tenderers may submit tenders through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in the bid document. For other details refer bid document.

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries: **21.04.2026 upto 17.30 Hrs. in KPP Portal. (2)** Pre bid meeting: **22.04.2026 at 12.00 Hrs** at the office of CE & CGM (Tech), BSWML, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore. **(3)** Last date for submission of the bids: **27.04.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs. (4)** Date of opening of bid on : **28.04.2026 at 16.30 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/225/SSC/2026-27

MSME-TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
एमएसएमई प्रौद्योगिकी विकास केंद्र
Process & Product Development Centre
प्रक्रिया एवं उत्पाद विकास केंद्र
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre Thiruvalla Organizes
PPDC

Online program on
Financial Management & Accounting for Healthcare Business

COURSE CONTENT: • Healthcare Finance Core Principles • Revenue Cycle Management Essentials • Budgeting & Financial Forecasting • Medical Billing & Claims Processing • Cost Control & Expense Management • Financial Reporting & Analysis • Fraud Detection & Risk Management • Regulatory Compliance & Auditing • Investment Planning & Capital Allocation • AI Tools for Financial Decision-Making

Date/ दिनांक: 27 to 30 April 2026
Time/ समय: 6.00 PM To 9.00 PM
Fees/ शुल्क: 3540/- (Including GST)
Contact Number: 9944971623, 8129988725
Website: ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
Scan QR for Online Registration
CERTIFICATE WILL BE AWARDED

Directorate General of Shipping, Govt. of India

VACANCY

Applications are invited for contractual position for the 01 Executive Assistant at **Delhi Liaison Office** of the Directorate General of Shipping, Govt. of India, 9th Floor, Beta Building, I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjurmarg (East), Mumbai - 400042]. The eligibility, educational Qualification, Work Experience, and format for submission of application etc may be seen in the detailed advertisement placed at the DG Shipping website: www.dgshipping.gov.in. The last date for receipt of application is 15 days from publication of this advertisement.

Sr. No.	Description	No. of Vacancy	Remuneration	Qualification
1	Executive Assistant	01 (At Delhi Liaison Office)	INR 1,00,000/- Month	Graduate in any field with min. 60% from recognized University/ Institute with minimum of 8 years of experience in Govt office (State/ Central) - English/ Hindi.

The Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any, will be uploaded on the DGS website only.

Sd/-
(PL Muthu)
Assistant Director General of Shipping

महिला अभियान्त्रिकी महाविद्यालय, अजमेर
(बीकानेर तकनीकी विश्वविद्यालय, बीकानेर का संघटक महाविद्यालय)
WOMEN ENGINEERING COLLEGE, AJMER
(A CONSTITUENT COLLEGE OF BIKANER TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, BIKANER)
Nasirabad Road, Makhupura, Ajmer - 305002
website: www.gweca.ac.in, email: principal@gweca.ac.in
Ph. No.: 0145-2695535, Fax No. 0145-2695102

No: MECA/Procurement/2026-27/101 Date:16.04.2026
Corrigendum
संदर्भ निविदा (i) Supply of Manpower Services (College & Hostel) NIB No- WEA2526A0025, UBN No- WEA2526SLOB00023, TENDER ID 2026_GWEC_548774_1 (ii) Supply of Manpower Services (Campus Security) NIB No- WEA2526A0026, UBN No- WEA2526SLOB00024, TENDER ID - 2026_GWEC_548801_1
प्रकाशन दिनांक 29.03.2026 राजस्थान पत्रिका एवं 01.04.2026 टाईम्स ऑफ इंडिया। उपरोक्त प्रकाशित निविदाओं की नियम एवं शर्तो मे परिवर्तन किये गये है जिसका विवरण www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.gweca.ac.in वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है। अन्य नियम एवं शर्ते यथावत रहेगी। निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 04 मई 2026
प्राचार्या, महिला अभियांत्रिकी महाविद्यालय अजमेर

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, KIADB Head Office, No. 14/3, 1st Floor, Maharshi Aravindha Bhavana Building, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001.

No.: Bengaluru/LAQ/Main File/151/2026-27 Date: 15.04.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE-
CORRIGENDUM FOR CHANGE OF ENQUIRY PLACE

Government has issued Preliminary Notification as per No.: CI 79 SPQ(E) 2024 Dated 10.09.2024, published in State Gazette Publication dated 23.09.2024, under K.I.A.D. Act 1966 Sec 28(1) for acquiring total 1637-21½ A/G, Kharabu 490-15½ A/G, Jatha 1147-06 A/G. of lands for Industrial Development in Jakkasandra, Shivarapattana, Ramenahalli, Kanivenahalli, Hungenahalli and Varadenahalli Villages, Kasaba Hobli, Maluru Taluk, Kolar District. As per this Notice has been published in Newspapers for the related Khatedars/Anubhavadars/ Interested Persons to appear for enquiry on 09.01.2025 and 10.01.2025 and Notice has been issued as per Sec 28(2).

Furthermore, as there is a need to conduct an enquiry once again, dates for enquiry have been fixed for the below mentioned villages. Therefore, it was informed to the persons who have interest in the properties and Authorised Khatedars, to appear for enquiry on the said dates, along with documents at Office of The Special Land Acquisition Officer, KIADB Head Office, KIADB, 5th Floor, Aravinda Bhavana, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru, through Public Notice published in 'Prajavani", Kannada Newspaper and "Times Of India", English Newspaper on 11.04.2025. The Khatedars/Land Owners have requested for a change in address of the Enquiry Place instead of the above mentioned address.

As per the request of Khatedars/Land Owners the address has been changed to **Gram Panchayat Community Bhavana, Near Someshwara Temple, Shivara Pattana Village, Kasaba Hobli, Maluru Taluk, Kolar District** and as enquiry will be conducted here, it is informed to be present for enquiry on the below mentioned dates.

Sl. No.	Village	Enquiry Date	Timings
1	Hungenahalli Varadenahalli Jakkasandra	29.04.2026	Morning 11.30
2	Ramenahalli	30.04.2026	Morning 11.30
3	Kanivenahalli	05.05.2026	Morning 11.30
4	Shivarapattana	07.05.2026	Morning 11.30

Sd/- Special Land Acquisition Officer,
KIADB Head Office, N.T. Road, Bengaluru.

thsti **BRIC-Translational Health Science and Technology Institute** BRIC
(An Institute of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council, Govt. of India)
NCR Biotech Science Cluster, 3rd Milestone, Faridabad – Gurugram Expressway, P.O. Box No. 04, Faridabad – 121001

Recruitment Notice Nos. THS-C/RN/10/2026
THSTI proposes to fill the following post under CDSA:
1. Consultant (Medical Monitor)
For more details, please visit our website: www.thsti.res.in

CSIR – INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
4, Raja SC Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700032

Advt No.-SDP/01/2026-27
CSIR - Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata invites applications for various Certification Courses under the "CSIR-Integrated Skill Initiative" -
Course Duration: ***01 week for RTPCR(15th -19th June 2026) : 2 weeks (from 08th -19th June 2026) for other courses.*** **Online Application Period: 17th April to 07th May 2026. For online application process :https://iicb.res.in/sdp**
Administrative Officer

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, JODHPUR
(An autonomous body set-up by Government of India)
Basni, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) Pin code: 342005
Website: https://www.aiimsjodhpur.edu.in, Phone: 0291-2740741

AIIMS. JDH/Admn/RECT/Deputation /01 /2026
ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited to fill the following Group A post Purely on Deputation Basis (including shortterm contract) at AIIMS, Jodhpur. The last date of application has been extended upto 14.05.2026.

S. No.	Name of the Post	Group	Pay Level	Total Post
1	Medical Superintendent	A	14	01

Note:
1. The number of post is tentative and is liable to be changed based on the Institute's requirements.
The detailed advertisement and online application form are available on our website: https://www.aiimsjodhpur.edu.in

Sd-
Senior Administrative Officer

MSME- TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
एमएसएमई- प्रौद्योगिकी विकास केंद्र
Process & Product Development Centre
प्रक्रिया एवं उत्पाद विकास केंद्र
An Autonomous body under ministry of MSME, Govt. of India Society
EC-Ettumanoor Organizes 04 Days online training on
PPDC

SOURCING AND PROCUREMENT

COURSE CONTENT:
- Introduction to sourcing and procurement
- Step by step procedure of procurement
- Preparation of purchase order, contract
- Global sourcing
- INCO terms

For Registration

DATE / दिनांक: *25th, 26th April & 2nd, 3rd May 2026* (04 Days- Weekend)
TIME / समय: 06.00 PM - 09.00 PM **FEES / शुल्क: 4,720/-** *(Incl. of GST)*
WEBSITE: www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
CONTACT: 9626516812 / 9750747571
CERTIFICATION WILL BE AWARDED

27001/22/2627

DIRECTORATE OF STATE INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING
"SHIKSHA SOUDHA", UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR-751001
Notice Inviting RfP

No. 120 **Date : 16.04.2026**

Selection of Agency for Design, Development and Implementation of Chatbot, Mobile App, Web Portal and E-content for SIOS, Odisha

DIRECTORATE OF SIOS, under the administrative control of the School & Mass Education Department, Government of Odisha, invites sealed proposals from eligible bidders for the Selection of an agency for the design, Development and Implementation of a chatbot, Mobile App, Web-portal and E-content for SIOS, Odisha, during the Financial Year 2026-27.

The RfP document will be available on the OSEPA website at **osepa.odisha.gov.in.** Bidders meeting the eligibility criteria as prescribed in the RfP can access and download the complete RfP and apply accordingly.

The major events under the bid process are:

Sl. No.	List of Key Events	Critical Dates
1	Date of availability of the RfP document in OSEPA website	18.04.2026
2	Last Date for Submission of Bid	By 5 PM of 11.05.2026
3	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	At 11 AM of 12.05.2026
4	Date of Opening of Financial Bid	To be communicated to the technically qualified bidder/s later.

The proposal, complete in all respects, must reach the undersigned by **Speed Post/ Registered Post/ Courier** only, latest by 5 PM of 11.05.2026 in a sealed envelope superscribed as **"REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - Selection of Agency for Design, Development and Implementation of Chatbot, Mobile App, Web Portal and E-content for SIOS, Odisha"**

The proposals received beyond the last date and time will be rejected. The Tender Inviting Authority, i.e. SIOS, reserves the right to accept/ reject any/all BIDs / cancel the entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Address for Submission of Proposal:
Director,
DIRECTORATE OF SIOS
"Shiksha Soudha", Unit-V, Bhubaneswar, Odisha-751001

Sd/-
DIRECTOR, SIOS
OIPR-27001/27068/1/26-27/0002

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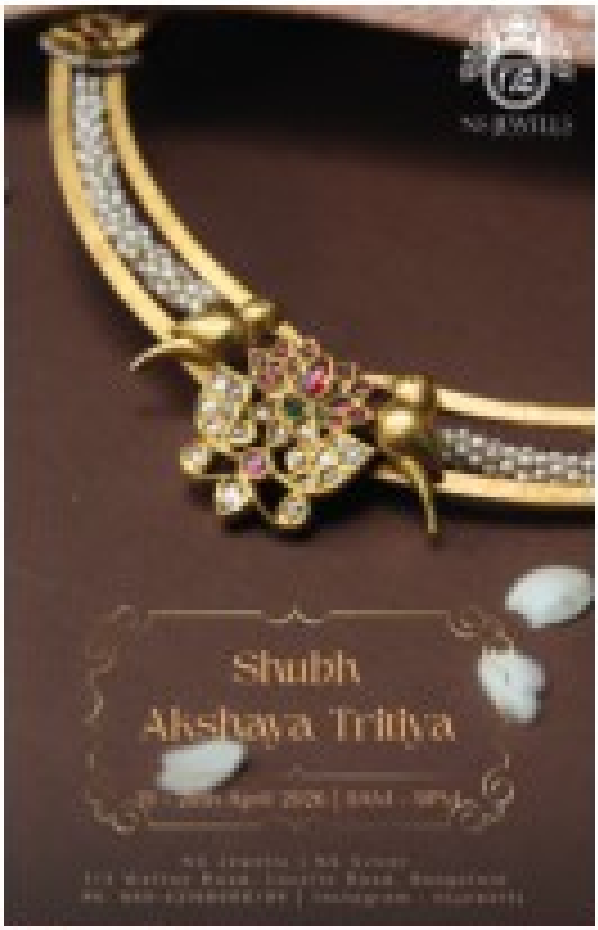
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JAIPUR CITY TRANSPORT SERVICES LIMITED

No.:- MD/JCTSL/2026-27/D - 100 Date:- 15/04/2026

Corrigendum - 04

This is with reference to JCTSL Bid no 07/2025-26 published on **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** UBN No.JCT2526SLOB00009 and **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Tender ID 2026_JCTS_532359_1, Some amendments are made. Detail of amendments can be seen and may be downloaded from above mentioned websites and JCTSL Website **(http://transport.rajasthan.gov.in/jctsl)**.

Raj.Samwad/C/26/997 **Office on Special Duty**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC&APCC)/EEP/AEE-2/2026-27/327-337 Date: 16.04.2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode against the following Tender Enquiry No. as detailed below:

Tender Enquiry Number and Description

Tender Enquiry No: KPTCL/2026-27/IND0297

Design, Manufacture, Testing, Inspection and Supply of 25 no's. of 20MVA 110/33-11kV Power Transformers conforming to KPTCL Technical Specifications, F.O.R.D at Store/Site basis, including insurance, transportation and unloading.

Availability of Bid documents in KPP Portal: **On or after 22.04.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids: **22.05.2026 at 15:00 Hrs.**

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. **Any extension of due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the KPP Portal**. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech.), KPTCL, Corporate Office, 11th Floor, Indhana Bhavan, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru -560009.

NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY

Kerwa Dam Road, Bhopal 462044 (M.P.)

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR MCLIS & Ph.D. PROGRAMMES

Applications are invited from interested applicants for admission to:

1. Master of Cyber Law and Information Security Programme (MCLIS)
2. Ph.D. in Law, Social Sciences, Cyber Law and Information Security, Computer Science/IT and Cyber Security Programmes

- Last Date for submitting the Online Application Form : **30th April 2026.**
- Entrance Test for the MCLIS & Ph.D. in Cyber Law and Information Security Program : 10th May 2026 (Sunday).
- Date of Ph.D. Interview : 14th, 15th and 16th May 2026.

For detailed Admission Brochure and Online Application Form, please visit the link **(https://nliu.ac.in/admissions/).**

M.P. Madhyam/125385/2026 **REGISTRAR**

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA

Bengaluru-560001

No. HCRB/CJR-9/2026 **Date: 16.04.2026**

BRIEF NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited by High Court of Karnataka for filling up of 90 posts of Civil Judges by Direct Recruitment in Karnataka Judicial Services. Pay scale of the said post is Rs.77,840 - Rs.1,36,520. Last date for submission of online application is **15.05.2026 till 11.59 p.m.** Eligible candidates can apply 'Online' only through the High Court of Karnataka website i.e., **https://judiciary.karnataka.gov.in** No other means / mode of applications will be accepted. The Notification and other details are available in the above mentioned portal and in the official Gazette (E-Gazette) of Karnataka. Before submitting the online application, the candidates shall go through the instructions available in the Official website of High Court of Karnataka.

Sd/- (K.S. BHARATH KUMAR)
REGISTRAR GENERAL AND SECRETARY,
CIVIL JUDGES RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE.
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU.

DIPR/CP/222/Zen/2026-27

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-(IREPS) Tender Notice No: 01 UBL 2026-27
Dated: 10.04.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division:** Supply of Water Can to Level Crossing gates and gang units under Asst. Divisional Engineer/Gadag Jurisdiction (Total 25 Gang Units and 63 Gates) for a period of 02 years.	Rs. 15,15,800.00
2	**Hubballi Division:** Proposed Construction of precast goomties for LC Gates at LC Nos. 80 (185/700-800) Jumnal - Bijapur (JML-BJP), 84(193/500-600) Bijapur-Minchnal (BJP-MNL), 104(232/300-400) Nimbal-Indi Road (NBL-IDR), 4(8/700-800) Hubballi-Kusugali (UBL-KUG) Sections, under Sr. Divisional Engineer/Central Jurisdiction.	Rs. 87,25,136.00
3	**Hubballi Division:** Proposed construction of precast goomties for LC gates at LC Nos. 6E at KM 5/600-700 Ballary-Obalapuram (BAY-OBM), 2E at 2/500-600 Ballary-Obalapuram (BAY-OBM), 33E at 47/100-200 Somalapuram-Rayadurga (SLM-RDG) and 6 at KM. 6/900-7/000 Toranagallu-Bannihatti (TNGL-BNHT) under Sr. Divisional Engineer/East Jurisdiction.	Rs. 87,25,136.00
4	**Hubballi Division:** Proposed construction of precast goomties for LC gates at LC No. 371 at Km. 598/200-300 under Sr. Divisional Engineer/West/Hubballi Jurisdiction.	Rs. 21,81,284.00
5	**Hubballi Division:** Proposed construction of precast goomties for LC gates at LC Nos. 316 at Km. 517/300-400 Kambrganavi-Kashanatti (KBI-KHST) under Sr. Divisional Engineer / Head Quarters / Hubballi Jurisdiction.	Rs. 21,81,284.00
6	**Hubballi Division:** Supply of water can to Level Crossings gates and Gang Units under Asst. Divisional Engineer/West Section for a period of 24 months.	Rs. 7,40,675.00

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 11.05.2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination Hubballi

PUB/37/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited

9th Floor, E & F Block, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru-560009
Tele-:080-23118888 Website: https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in
e-mail: rgrhclgmtech@gmail.com

No.RGHCL 18 TECH 01/2026-27 Dated: 17.04.2026

Short Term Tender Notification

(Through KPP Portal)

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following work through KPP Portal from the eligible contractors.

Last date of submission of bid is Date: 02.05.2026

Sl. No.	Name and Place of Work	Amount put to tender [Excluding GST] (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Rs. (in Lakhs)
1.	Construction of Post Metric Girls Hostel Building Works (G+1) for Minorities at Bailhongal Town, Belagavi District (Fixed Price No Variation) – Package – 8 **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT65.**	**386.14**	**3.86**
2.	Construction of Moulana Azad Bhavan, District Office (G+3) for Minorities at Hosapete Town, Vijayanagar District. (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT66**	**415.88**	**4.15**
3.	Construction of Moulana Azad Bhavan, District Office (G+3) for Minorities at Haveri Town, Haveri District. (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT67**	**415.88**	**4.15**
4.	Construction of Moulana Azad Bhavan, District Office (G+3) for Minorities at Shimoga Town, Shimoga District. (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT68**	**415.88**	**4.15**
5.	Construction of Moulana Azad Bhavan, District Office (G+3) for Minorities at Raichur Town, Raichur District. (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT69**	**415.88**	**4.15**
6.	Construction of Moulana Azad Bhavan, District Office (G+3) for Minorities at Chitradurga Town, Chitradurga District. (Fixed Price No Variation) **Indent No: RGRHCL/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT70**	**415.88**	**4.15**

further information visit :
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in, https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in/

DIPR/CP/RO243/AAPL/2026-27 **Sd/- General Manager (S D)**

S. E. RAILWAY – E-TENDER

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/GENL/TP/2026/12, dated 17.04.2026. Open e-Tenders for "E" Procurement system are invited by Principal Chief Materials Manager, S.E.Railway, Headquarters Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India, which have been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** as follows. All the tenders will be closed at 14.00 hrs.

Sl.No.	Tender No.	Closing Date	Brief Description	Qty.	EMD (in ₹)
1	**66255017B**	30.04.2026	Tungsten Carbide Tamping Tool (TCTT) etc.	15 Set	1,96,430/-
2	**33263459**	20.05.2026	Centering Disc for LHB GS Coaches etc.	652 Nos.	1,07,710/-
3	**33263170**	07.05.2026	Housing complete for earthing brush assembly etc.	2200 Nos.	1,42,160/-
4	**60260001**	11.05.2026	Manufacturing & Supply of Metal Liner for use with ERC MK-V on 25T concrete sleeper.	620000 Set	7,68,180/-
5	**38264051A**	04.05.2026	Outer Bolster Suspension Spring for CASNUB 22HS (MOD 1) Bogie.	7000 Nos.	2,54,410/-
6	**IE265066A**	13.05.2026	HT Three Core Power Cable 2000 Mtrs.	2000 Mtrs.	1,46,130/-
7	**IH256113B**	06.05.2026	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of ELECTRONIC IN MOTION WEIGH BRIDGES.	2 Nos.	66,100/-
8	**79261779**	07.05.2026	Fire Retardant Curtain Fabric for all AC coaches etc.	15320 Mtr.	1,28,370/-
9	**65255028**	26.05.2026	X-Ray Baggage Scanner for Chakradharpur and Ranchi with accessories. (Pre-bid meeting on 05/05/26 12.00 hrs at PCMM Meeting Room/S.E. Railway/ Garden Reach/Kolkata-43)	06 Nos.	8,06,250/-
10	**65255050**	19.05.2026	Hot Phosphating Plant with Concommitant Accesories (Pre-bid meeting on 29/04/26 at 16.00 hrs at PCMM Meeting Room/ S.E. Railway/Garden Reach/Kolkata - 43).	01 No.	3,91,230/-
11	**65255046**	21.05.2026	Supply and installation of Airless Centrifugal Shot Peening plant for coil spring. (Pre-bid meeting on 05/05/26 16.00 hrs. at PCMM Meeting Room/ S.E. Railway/Garden/ Reach, Kol- 43).	02 Nos.	2,43,040/-
12	**67255001**	14.05.2026	Supply of 02(Two) Nos. of Material Carrying Truck. Capacity 10 Ton with modification work (Pre-bid meeting on 28/04/26 at 12.00 hrs. at PCMM Meeting Room/S.E. Railway/ Garden Reach/Kolkata- 43)	02 Nos.	1,24,340/-
13	**29254855B**	27.04.2026	Winding Wire Flat Fl Cu Fo13.	3300 Kgs.	1,09,120/-
14	**25253721**	28.05.2026	Set of loco cab meters.	39 Set	1,13,510/-

Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/ specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B.** : Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders & any corrigendum published thereafter. **(PR-57)**

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 3		
1.	Constructions of the Community Centre, Sector-24, Chandigarh. Capital Head : N.R.B Est. Cost : Rs. 1057.28 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs.21,14,565/- Time Limit : 24 Months	17.04.2026 To 04.05.2026 upto 12.00 Noon	04.05.2026 at 15.00 PM

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Roads Division No.3, Room No.311, Ph. 0172-5021482 xenroad3.mcc@chd.nic.in

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/T&P/SE-1/2/2026-27/474-503 **Date:17.04.2026**

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following enquiry numbers on **Partial Turnkey basis.**

Enquiry No's. and Name of the Works

1. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3611

Combined Package of: Work-A: Establishing 2x20 MVA 66/11kV sub-station at **Shanappanahalli** and running of 66kV, 1000sqmm UG cable LILOing from proposed CTT in existing 66kV NRS Dodaballapura Devanahalli-2 line for a route length of **1.06km** in Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

Work-B: Establishing 2x20 MVA, 66/11kv sub-station at **M.Sathyawara** and running of 66kV, 1000sqmm UG Cable LILOing from proposed CTT in existing 66kV Ekarajapura-Budigere DC Line for a route length of **0.965km** in Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

2. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3610

Combined Package of: Work-A: Establishing 2x20MVA 66/11kV **Karahalli** sub-station in Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru rural district & Running 66kV 1000sqmm LILO cable from proposed CTT in existing 66kV NRS-DBpura-Vijayapura SC line for a route length of **1.205km.**

Work-B: Providing **alternate source** to 66/11kV **Sorahunase** sub-station by running **66kV** 1000sqmm **cable** from existing 220/66kV Hagaduru (Whitefield) GIS sub-station for a route length of **5.82km** in Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru urban district & Construction of 01no. of 66kV Terminal bay at existing 66/11kV Sorahunase sub-station

3. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3621

Combined Package of: Work-A: Providing alternate source to 66/11kV **Chokkasandra sub-station** by providing **66kV, 1000sqmm SC UG Cable** from existing 66/11kV Chokkasandra sub-station to 66/11kV Dommasandra sub-station for a route length of **2.6km** along with construction of 1 no. of **66kV Terminal** Bay each at existing 66/11kV Chokkasandra sub-station and 66/11kV Dommasandra sub-station and Modification of 66kV Overhead line passing through 66kV Switchyard of the proposed terminal bay in the premises of existing 66/11kV Dommasandra sub-station to 66kV, 1000sqmm UG Cable for a route length of **0.17 Km** in **Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.**

Work-B: Establishing 2x20 MVA, 66/11KV sub-station at **Sarkari Uttanahalli** and running of **66kV, 630sqmm UG Cable** LILO from existing 66kV DK Maidana-Kadakola SC line to the proposed 66/11kV Sarkari Uttanahalli sub-station for route length of **2.756km in Mysuru Taluk, Mysuru District**

4. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3631

Establishing 2x20MVA, **110/11kV** sub-station at **Kolagunda Gate (Savanthanahalli)** with associated 110kV LILO Line for a distance of **0.122km** in Arasikere Taluk, Hassan District

5. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3632

Establishing 2x20MVA, **66/11kV** sub-station at **Kembuthagere (Amrutheshwaranahalli)** with associated 66kV LILO line for distance of **1.541km** in Malavalli Taluk, Mandya District.

6. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3630

Establishing 2x20MVA, **66/11kV** sub-station at **Machagondanahalli** with associated 66kV LILO Line for a distance of **0.457km** in Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

7. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3627

Establishing 2X20MVA, **110/11kV** sub-station at **Bhalki North** and Construction of 110kV LILO line for a distance of **1.701km** in Bhalki Taluk, Bidar District.

8. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3628

Combined Package of: **Work – A:** Establishing 1X20MVA, **110/33kV** and 2X20MVA, **110/11kV** sub-station at **Ahemadabad** and Construction of 110kV LILO line for a distance of **0.237km** in Bhalki Taluk, Bidar District.

Work – B: Construction of 110kV LILO line to existing **110/11kV Nirna** sub-station from existing 110kV Manna-E-Khelli –Chincholli line for a distance of **1.406km** along with construction of **2 no's** terminal bays at 110kV Nirna sub-station in Humnabad Taluk, Bidar District.

9. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3625

Establishing 2x100MVA, **220/110kV** and 1x10MVA, **110/11kV sub-station at Tekkalakote (Konchigere) Village** and construction of 220kV associated Transmission lines for a distance of **59.887km** and 110kV associated Transmission lines for a distance of **56.252km** in Siruguppa Taluk & Ballari District along with construction of **02no's.** of 220kV Terminal Bays at Somasamudra sub-station and **02 no's.** of 220kV Terminal bays Sindhanuru sub-station in Ballari Taluk & District, and **02 no's.** of 110kV Terminal Bays in Sirigeri cross sub-station, **01no.** of 110kV Terminal Bay in Siruguppa sub-station in Siruguppa Taluk & Ballari District and **01no.** of 110kV Terminal Bay in Kurugodu sub-station in Kurugodu Taluk & Ballari District.

10. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3622

Establishing of 2x20MVA **66/11kV** sub-station at **Belaghatta** and construction of 66kV DC Line on MC/DC Towers from 220/66kV Chitradurga S/S to Proposed 66/11kV Belaghatta S/S by Utilizing Cross arm of existing MC Towers (up to Gunuru Limits) along with Replacement of existing Coyote Conductor by HPC of ampacity 700amps Conductor for a distance of **11.394km** and Construction of 66kV SC Link Line on MC/DC Towers from proposed 66/11kV Belaghatta S/S to Link existing 66kV Chitradurga - Turunuru SC Line for a distance of **0.210km** and Construction of 1No. of 66kV terminal bay at 220/66/11kV Sub-station at Belaghatta in Chitradurga Taluk and District.

11. KPTCL/2026-27/TL/WORK_INDENT3629

Construction of **110kV SC line** on DC towers using Panther conductor from existing 110/11kV Hebballi S/s to existing 110/11kV **Moraba** s/s for a distance of **11.918km** and along with Construction of **1No.** of 110kV Terminal bay each at 110kV Hebballi S/s and 110kV Moraba S/s in Dharwad taluk& District.

12. KPTCL/2026-27/SS/WORK_INDENT3623

Establishing 2x20MVA, **110/11kV** sub-station at **Hirekheda** and Construction of 110kV DC(LILO) line for a distance of **7.212km** in Kanakagiri Taluk, Koppal District.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after **18.04.2026 @ 15:00hrs.** for the works mentioned at Sl.No. (1) to (5) and on or after **23.04.2026 @ 15:00hrs.** for the works mentioned at Sl.No. (6) to (12) Last date & time for receipt of Bids and **any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy,
Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL,
9th Floor, Indhana Bhavana, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 0836– 2747944(ಕ) Fax No.: 0836-2741209 E-mail: eepwddha@gmail.com

ಕ್ರಸಂ:ಕಾನಿಇಂ/ಧಾವಿ/ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/ಟ.ಪ.1,2,3,4,5/2026–27/246 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–04–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2000 ರನ್ವಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1,2,3,4 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. **(kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಏಕ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:– 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ CMIDP 4059-80-051-0-60-132 ಅಡಿ, 3054-04-337-1-10-200 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅಡಿ, 5054 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ, 2059-80-053-4-00-200 ವಿವಿಧ ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ/ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅಡಿ, 4059-80-051-0-32-86 ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ, ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ, 4059-80-051-0-60-423 ಟಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ.(CMIDP) 4059-80-051-0-29-386, 4059-80-051-0-60-422 SCP, 8443 Deposit ಅಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ:– **(1)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34312 **(2)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT31530 **(3)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT30736/CALL-3 **(4)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT22734 **(5)** PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT34272 (Extension) **(6)** PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT34799 (Extension) **(7)** PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT34409 **(8)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT34280 **(9)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT35212 **(10)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33461 **(11)** PWD/2024-25/SE0244/CALL-2 **(12)** PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT35487 **(13)** PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT29190/CALL-3 **(14)** PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT35686 **(15)** PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35481 (Single Cover) **(16)** PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35483 (Single Cover) **(17)** PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT35539 (Single Cover) **(18)** PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT35769 (Single Cover) ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ:– (19) PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT35166 **(20)** PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_ INDENT35383 **(21)** PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT35684 ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ:– (22) PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT35106 **(23)** PWD/2026-27/RD/ WORK_INDENT35384 ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2ಎ:– **(24)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33456 **(25)** PWD/2026- 27/RD/WORK_ INDENT35687 **(26)** PWD/2026-27/RD/WORK_INDENT35382 ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–1:– **(27)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT33455

Calander of Events:

(1) ಪ್ರಿಬಿಡ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು/ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **24–04–2026** (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ). (2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **27–04–2026** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ). (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **28–04–2026** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ). (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **29–04–2026** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ). ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ:– **(28)** PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT31543 **(29)** PWD/2025-26/RD/WORK_ INDENT31544/CALL-3 **(30)** PWD/2025- 26/RD/WORK_INDENT27826/Call-3 **(31)** PWD/2025-26/SE1108 **(32)** PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT35679

Calander of Events: 2)

(1) ಪ್ರಿಬಿಡ್/ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಯನ್ನು/ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **05–05–2026** (ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 12:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ). (2) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06–05–2026** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ). (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **07–05–2026** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ). (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **08–05–2026** (ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ).

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ **http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಧಾರವಾಡ/69/2026–27/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR

25001/28/2627

AT-CHANDIKHOL, PO-SUNGUDA, JAJPUR -754296, Tel No. 0671-2444488, Email- serw_kpd@yahoo.com

Letter No. : 2362 Date : 16.04.2026

1st Corrigendum Notice

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Tender Online RCK-05/26 invited by this office vide Letter No.-1770, Dt.- 17.03.2026.

The changes as detailed below are hereby made in the above N.I.T. :

1. Clause No-06 of NIT modified below :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender on-line for bidding		Last date & time of seeking tender clarification		Date & Time of opening of tender			
						Technical Bid		Financial Bid	
		Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on	Previously fixed on	Presently Modified on
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara - Jajpur	Tender RCK-05/26	From 02.04.2026 At 11.00 A.M. To 22.04.2026 Upto 05.00 P.M.	From 02.04.2026 At 11.00 A.M. To 05.05.2026 Upto 05.00 P.M.	22.04.2026 upto 2.00 P.M.	05.05.2026 upto 2.00 P.M.	23.04.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	06.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later	Will be intimated later

All other conditions of NIT remain unaltered.

Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer**
Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur

OIPR-25001/25129/1/26-27/0001

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISON, BHAWANIPATNA.

25001/20/2627

e-mail: eerwsskld@gmail.com
eerwss_kld@nic.in
Phone No: 06670-230784

INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e-TENDERING

Bid Identification No- 01/SE/RWSS/2026-27/Bpt Dated. 13.04.2026

01.Name of the work :- As per ANNEXURE - A

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding on office hour only		Date of opening (Technical Bid)
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna	01/SE/RWSS/2026-27 /Bpt Dated- 13.04.2026	21.04.2026 10.00 AM	07.05.2026 05.30 PM	08.05.2026 10.00 AM onwards

Cost of tender paper to be made online payment system.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **http://tenderodisha.gov.in**
The original documents should be scanned and uploaded.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Kalahandi RWS&S Division
Bhawanipatna

OIPR-25001/25005/1/26-27/0001

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
POTTERU IRRIGATION PROJECT, BALIMELA

32001/69/2627

e-mail Id : ccepotteru123@gmail.com

e-Procurement Notice No.- CCE-PIP-BML-01/ 2026-27

1. Type of Works : River Bank Flood Protection Work.
2. Total No. of Works : One (1) No.
3. Estimated Cost : 413.10 Lakh
4. Period of Completion : Eight (8) Calendar Months
5. Class of Contractor : 'A' Class

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. In Lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bids-on line.
Chief Construction Engineer, Potteru Irrigation Project, Balimela, Malkangiri	CCE-PIP-BML-01(1)/2026-27	413.10 Lakh	From 21.04.2026 10.00 A.M. to 05.05.2026 5.00 P.M.

Date of opening of the Tender / Bid :- 06.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M

Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Potteru Irrigation Project, Balimela

OIPR-32001/32209/1/26-27/0001

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

34001/76/2627

E-mail ID:cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in
cebuildings@rediffmail.com
Tel. (0674)-2391523

File No.- B-IV-H-(NHM)-06/2025 13417 / Bhubaneswar, the 17th April., 2026

Invitation for Bids

1st Corrigendum

Tender Reference No. CE-Bldg-II-01/2026-27

Name of the Works : "Construction of 50 Bedded Critical Care Block Building at MKCG Medical College and Hospital, Berhampur".

The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. **CE-Bldg-II-01/2026-27**

1. Bid documents such as DTCN BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**, during the period from **dt.30.04.2026 to 17.00 hours of dt.15.05.2026** instead of dt.17.04.2026 to dt.07.05.2026 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
2. **Online** bids shall be received till **17.00 Hours of dt.15.05.2026** instead of dt.07.05.2026.
3. The technical bids will be opened at **11.30 A.M. of dt.18.05.2026** instead of dt.08.05.2026.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Buildings-II (I/c), Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR-34001/34117/1/26-27/0009

Wedding Times
WANTED GROOM
Caste no bar
Groom Categories
Age: 27
Place of Birth: Mumbai, Maharashtra
Current City: Mumbai
Religion: Hindu
Languages: Marathi, English, Hindi
Education: MBA
Send your Query!
Manufacturer Brand ... Number
Phone number ... City
Phone number on WhatsApp ... Phone Model
Electronic Brand ... Mobile
Availability of Mobile Service ... Number

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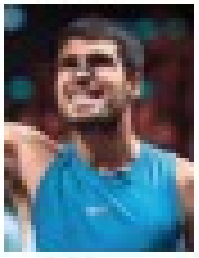
Nasal strips: Athletes' low-tech obsession



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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

'TOP GUN 3' OFFICIALLY IN THE WORKS, TOM CRUISE TO REPRISE ROLE AS PETE 'MAVERICK' MITCHELL

SOMEONE IS SITTING IN THE SHADE TODAY BECAUSE SOMEONE PLANTED A TREE A LONG TIME AGO — WARREN BUFFETT

DAVID BURKE, A 21-YEAR-OLD MUSICIAN KNOWN AS D4VD, ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF MURDER OF A 14-YR-OLD GIRL

Trump claims nuke deal with Iran to end siege of Hormuz

US Prez: Will Recover Enriched Uranium At A Leisurely Pace

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Donald Trump announced on Friday that Iran has agreed to give up its enriched uranium and reopen the Strait of Hormuz — in return for unspecified rewards and concessions, according to reports.

In a series of social media posts that was neither confirmed nor contested by Iran, Trump said the US "will get all Nuclear 'Dust,' created by our great B2 Bombers - No money will exchange hands in any way, shape, or form." A report in the journal Axios had said Washington was considering a $20 billion cash-for-uranium exchange.

Trump also told Reuters in an interview that the US will enter Iran at a "leisurely pace" to recover its enriched uranium and bring it back to the US.

While the deal-hungry US president appeared to be referring to the enriched uranium that has been entombed by the US-Israeli bombing of Iranian nuclear facilities, there was no mention of other Iranian uranium, much less the centrifuges, domain expertise, and knowledge base that will enable Tehran to resume enrichment any time it wants.

Earlier on Thursday, Trump told reporters in the White House that Iran does not have a nuclear weapon, and "they've agreed to that... very powerfully." Iran has publicly forsworn nuclear weapons on several occasions but has said that as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) it has the right to a civilian nuclear program.

Distrust of Tehran's pledges is at the heart of the US-Israeli attack on Iran, and Trump's claim of an imminent deal did not provide any details or clarity on how this issue would be resolved. Iran has also demanded removal of sanctions, return of its assets frozen by the US, and reparations for damage cause by the US and Israeli attacks. Trump did not refer to any of these demands in his triumphant posts.

Trump also contested the Iranian claim that re-opening of Hormuz was contingent on the ceasefire in Lebanon, saying "This deal is in no way subject to Lebanon, either, but the USA will, separately, work with Lebanon, and deal with the Hezbollah situation in an appropriate manner."

The US president's head-spinning social media callisthenics and grandstanding also involved thanking Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and UAE for their help, while snubbing Nato for not helping with a deal he assumes is done and dusted.

"Now that the Hormuz Strait situation is over, I received a call from NATO asking if we would need some help. I TOLD THEM TO STAY AWAY, UNLESS THEY JUST WANT TO LOAD UP THEIR SHIPS WITH OIL. They were useless when needed, a Paper Tiger!" Trump said, speaking transparently of a growing trans-Atlantic rift that has damaged ties with the UK France, Germany, Spain, and Italy, among others.

Instead, Trump was effusive in his praise of Pakistan, thanking "its Great Prime Minister and Field Marshall (sic), two fantastic people!!!" He also thanked Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Qatar "for your great bravery and help!"

While there remained widespread scepticism in the US commentariat about the deal given the lack of specifics, the MAGA supremo also lashed out at familiar domestic targets, the so-called "fake news," saying they are "desperately" looking for a reason to criticise him on the Iran situation.

"Why don't they just say, at the right time, JOB WELL DONE, MR. PRESIDENT, and start to gain back their credibility???" Trump said. But scepticism of Trump's claim of an imminent deal still runs deep in the American media and the commentariat given the lack of specifics and the US president's penchant for grandstanding.

Getty Images

A pro-govt National Army Day demonstration is held in Tehran on Friday

Iran official: Ships crossing Hormuz need OK from IRGC, unfreezing funds part of deal

Dubai/London: All ships can sail through the Strait of Hormuz but this needs to be coordinated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a senior Iranian official said, adding that unfreezing Iranian funds was part of the deal. Foreign minister Abbas Araqchi wrote on X that the strait was open after a ceasefire accord was agreed in Lebanon.

Hundreds of ships and 20,000 seafarers have remained stranded inside the Gulf waiting to pass through the key waterway. The Iranian official said transits would be restricted to lanes that Iran deemed safe, adding that military vessels were still prohibited from crossing the strait.

"Releasing Iran's funds was part of the agreement for reopening the strait," the official noted, referring to an estimated $30 billion in frozen revenue, generated mainly from oil and gas exports, blocked amid US sanctions on Tehran.

It was not immediately clear if this included or excluded the established Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) lanes for entering and exiting the Gulf used by international shipping since the 1970s.

"Even US vessels would be permitted, excluding military ships," he said. REUTERS

US delivery of weapons to face delays: Report

Washington: US officials have informed some European counterparts that some previously contracted weapons deliveries are likely to be delayed as the Iran war continues to draw on weapons stocks, five sources familiar with the matter said. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said several European countries will be affected, including in the Baltic region and in Scandinavia. Some of the weapons in question were bought by European countries under the foreign military sales programme, but have not yet been delivered, the sources added.

The White House and the US state department referred queries to the Pentagon. "American military is the most powerful in the world, and we will ensure that US forces and those of our allies have what they need to fight," a Pentagon spokesperson said. REUTERS

Shipping cos seek clarification before crossing Hormuz

Shipping companies have cautiously welcomed the opening of the Strait of Hormuz but said they would require clarifications before vessels move through the entry point to the Gulf.

"We are verifying the recent announcement related to the reopening of Hormuz, in terms of its compliance with freedom of navigation for all merchant vessels," said Arsenio Dominguez, secretary-general of UN shipping agency the International Maritime Organisation.

The Norwegian Shipowners' Association said several things had to be clarified before any ships can transit the Strait of Hormuz, including the presence of undersea mines, Iranian conditions and practical implementation. REUTERS

MANDELSON VETTING ROW: WHY THE UK PM IS UNDER FIRE

British PM Keir Starmer (L), under renewed pressure to resign, expressed anger on Friday over not being informed that his former ambassador to the US, Peter Mandelson (R), had failed security vetting before being handed the prestigious job. Starmer's spokesperson said no minister and no one in the prime minister's office had known about the vetting failure

WHAT IS THE CONTROVERSY?

Appointment | Mandelson (72) was appointed in Feb 2025 but resigned in Sept as his ties to deceased sexual offender Jeffrey Epstein drew scrutiny

Vetting Failure | New reports indicate Mandelson failed his initial security check, yet the appointment proceeded

PM's defence | Starmer claims he was only informed of the vetting failure this week, calling the lapse in communication 'staggering' and 'unforgivable'

➤ Foreign secretary said in Sept that the vetting of potential ambassadors is carried out independently of ministers, who 'are not informed of any findings other than the outcome'

➤ Starmer survived calls to resign in Feb, stating Mandelson's successful security vetting as his defence

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Opposition parties have accused Starmer of misleading the public and parliament by suggesting that Mandelson had passed vetting

Discrepancy | In Sept, Starmer assured parliament that 'full due process' was followed in Mandelson's appointment. **If evidence proves Starmer knew of the vetting failure at that time, his defence collapses**

➤ Starmer is set to address parliament on Monday to clarify his position

Sacking | The foreign office's top official, **Olly Robbins,** was sacked on Thursday and will testify before a parliamentary panel on Tuesday

Precedent | Former **PM Boris Johnson** (2022) and the then interior minister **Amber Rudd** (2018) both resigned following accusations of misleading parliament. Johnson misled that he attended illicit parties held in govt buildings during the Covid pandemic, and Rudd misled about govt targets for deporting people

No sitting Labour PM has ever been removed by their own MPs in the party's *125-YEAR HISTORY*

CAN STARMER BE OUSTED?

Removing a Labour PM is historically difficult because:

➤ Candidates to replace Starmer will need the support of at least 81 lawmakers to trigger a contest

➤ Unlike the Conservatives, which had five PMs between 2016-2024, Labour Party rules require rebels to back a specific rival candidate rather than simply voting 'no confidence'

Source: Reuters

Lebanese return to 'unliveable' areas as ceasefire with Israel mostly holds

Banned Israel From Further Bombing In Lebanon: Trump

People uprooted by the war in Lebanon began returning to devastated towns and neighbourhoods Friday, with many finding their homes destroyed or uninhabitable and hesitant to stay for fear a ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel could unravel.

US President Trump said on Friday that the US had banned Israel from further bombing in Lebanon, a day after he announced the 10-day ceasefire. In a social media post, Trump said "Israel will not be bombing Lebanon any longer". "They are PROHIBITED from doing so by the U.S.A. Enough is enough!!!" he said. The agreement between Lebanon and Israel has added to optimism that the parallel war between the US and Iran could be nearing an end.

While Trump says Lebanon and Israel will work towards a longer-term deal, the ceasefire leaves big questions. Notably, it does not demand Israel withdraw soldiers occupying parts of the south, where Israel's defence minister said Israeli troops would continue to demolish homes he claimed were being used by Hezbollah. Iran-backed Hezbollah, which operates independently of the Lebanese state, has said it maintains "the right to resist".

Late on Friday, an Israeli strike killed at least one person in southern Lebanon, the Lebanese health ministry said. The Israeli military said it was checking the report.

In the Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs of Beirut, hills of rubble stood where there had once been apartment blocks and the smell of death hung in the air. Ali Hamza said he found his home intact, but that people were scared to return for now.

"It is impossible to live in these circumstances, and with these smells. A full return is difficult now, despite the hardship of displacement." He had gathered school books from the house: "We lost everything; we don't want them to lose the school year." In Qasmiyeh in southern Lebanon, cars were driving across a makeshift crossing over the Litani River, hastily erected after the ceasefire came into effect at midnight local time (2100 GMT). Israel destroyed all the bridges over the Litani during the war, blowing up the one at Qasmiyeh on Thursday.

Hezbollah expressed "cautious commitment" to the ceasefire Friday, but said it must ensure that all Israeli hostilities stop and limit the Israeli military's "freedom of movement" in Lebanon. REUTERS

Reuters/AFP

Displaced people make their way back to their homes in Lebanon on Friday

Over a dozen nations offer to play role in Hormuz: Starmer

Paris: More than a dozen countries said on Friday they were willing to join an international mission to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz when conditions permit, Britain said, just as President Trump said he did not need allies' help.

Some 50 countries joined a video conference chaired by France and Britain that followed on initial military planning and aimed to send a signal to Washington.

French President Emmanuel Macron said the meeting had allowed them to send a united message to demand the immediate and unconditional reopening of the strait. "We all oppose any restriction, anything that would amount, in effect, to an attempt to privatise the strait, and obviously any toll system," Macron said.

He said part of French naval assets currently deployed in the eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea could be used for the mission. "We will take this forward with a military plan conference in London next week where we will announce more details, and over a dozen countries have already offered to contribute assets," British PM Keir Starmer said.

The initiative being discussed did not, for now, include Washington DC or Tehran, though European diplomats said any realistic mission would ultimately need to be coordinated with both. REUTERS

Reuters

French President Emmanuel Macron greets Italy PM Giorgia Meloni as they meet for a multinational summit in Paris on Friday

'Iran has agreed to never close Hormuz'

▶ Continued from P1

In his post on X, Araghchi said that, "In line with the ceasefire in Lebanon, the passage for all commercial vessels through Strait of Hormuz is declared completely open for the remaining period of ceasefire, on the coordinated route as already announced by Ports and Maritime Organisation of the Islamic Rep. of Iran."

It was not clear if he was referring only to the ceasefire in Lebanon or the ceasefire between US/Israel and Iran, but both sides appeared to be drawing close to a deal, leading Trump to claim it is a "great and brilliant day for the world". Trump also said Iran, with the help of the US, "has removed, or is removing, all sea mines", a claim that seemed to have some basis given Araghchi's reference to a "coordinated route".

Taking steps to free Hindu monk Chinmoy Das: B'desh minister

Ahsan Tasnim

Dhaka: Bangladesh cultural affairs minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury on Friday assured leaders of the Hindu community that "appropriate steps" would be taken to ensure the early release of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das, who faces charges of sedition and murder.

The Tarique Rahman-led govt is actively working to preserve the cultural heritage of minority communities while carrying out "necessary investigations", Chowdhury, a prominent Hindu BNP leader and senior advocate, said without elaborating on the investigations being carried out.

Chinmoy was arrested under the erstwhile Muhammad Yunus-led interim govt under seven charges in 2024, with a court on Thursday granting him bail in a land grabbing case. "I will raise the matter in the appropriate forum within the next few days and take necessary measures for his early release," Chowdhury said at an event.

An 80-yr-old, inspired by Fauja Singh, to run London Marathon for first time

Naomi Canton

London: An 80-year British Sikh man is running the London Marathon for the first time on April 26, inspired by Fauja Singh who encouraged him to take up walking initially. Baldev Singh Bains is doing the marathon to raise money for the Fauja Singh Clubhouse, being built in Fauja's memory in Redbridge, on the route Fauja used to run.

Baldev Singh

Fauja, the oldest marathon runner in the world, died last July after being hit by a car in his native village Beas Pind at the age of 114. He had discovered running in his 80s and ran his first marathon aged 89.

Baldev knew Fauja as they lived in the same London borough, Redbridge, and went to the same gurdwara.

"When Fauja improved his running, I decided I wanted to improve my health. Fauja told me to start walking, and then running, and to change my diet and think positively," Baldev said.

As recommended by Fauja, he started off by walking around the periphery of Beal High School Redbridge. "At that time I was on medication for diabetes and other conditions and overweight. Now I have lost 30kg and my doctor has now taken me off virtually all my medication."

Baldev hired Fauja's coach, Harmander Singh, last year to train him, and he is also a member of the Sikhs in the City running club, where Fauja trained. Harmander (66) is also running the London Marathon to raise funds for the clubhouse, which will cost £1 million.

Baldev was born in Thana, a village in Garhshankar Tehsil in Hoshiarpur district, Punjab. He studied engineering at Delhi University before moving to the UK.

Netflix shares tank on weak forecast; Reed Hastings to step down as chair

Netflix Inc. shares tumbled the most in four years after the company issued a forecast for the second quarter that fell short of analysts' expectations, underwhelming Wall Street. Netflix also announced that chairman and co-founder Reed Hastings is stepping down after 29 years at the company to pursue philanthropy and personal interests.

In the current quarter, Netflix forecast earnings per share of 78 cents, less than the 84 cents predicted by Wall Street. Revenue projections for the second quarter were also tepid. Netflix said revenue would be $12.57 billion in the three months ending in June, compared with estimates of $12.64 billion. The shares sank as much as 12%, as trading got underway in New York Friday morning. It was the biggest intraday decline since April 2022. BLOOMBERG

DAILY PLANET

Suu Kyi's 27-year sentence cut by one-sixth: Lawyer

Myanmar has reduced the sentence of imprisoned ex-leader Aung San Suu Kyi, her lawyer told Reuters on Friday, as part of an amnesty by a new president who ousted her govt in a coup five years ago. Suu Kyi, 80, was serving a 27-year sentence for a litany of charges her allies said were politically motivated to keep her at bay, ranging from incitement and corruption to election fraud and violating a state secrets law. The sentence has been cut by one-sixth, but it remains unclear whether the Nobel Peace Prize winner will be allowed to serve the rest of her sentence under house arrest, the lawyer said. Suu Kyi has not been seen in public since the end of her marathon trials, and her whereabouts have been unknown.

Anthropic CEO to go to White House: Report
Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei is slated to meet White House chief of staff Susie Wiles on Friday, in a sign of a breakthrough in the AI startup's dispute with the Pentagon, Axios reported. The potential meeting comes as the Trump administration acknowledges the advanced capabilities of Anthropic's new AI model, Mythos, for its cybersecurity defence breaching abilities, according to the report.

Mamdani still earning rap music royalties: New York City mayor **Zohran Mamdani** is still making money from his short-lived career as a multi-lingual rapper, tax filings show. But the 34-year-old Democrat's meteoric rise as a celebrity politician has brought only a modest increase in hip-hop profits: he took home $1,643 in music royalties last year, up only slightly from $1,267 in 2024, according to the filings. Mamdani, who rapped under the monikers "Young Cardamom" and "Mr. Cardamom", joked that New Yorkers should "go to Spotify" if they want to help his bottom line.

'Cruelly hot': Japan's new term for heatwave days
Blistering temperatures rising to 40°C and above will now be branded "cruelly hot" or "kokusho-bi" in Japan, the weather agency said on Friday. By using this designation, the Japan Meteorological Agency "will more effectively call for vigilance against extremely high temperatures", it said.

Iran negotiators got Pak escort home from peace talks

Islamabad: Pakistan's air force escorted Iranian negotiators home from inconclusive peace talks with the US last weekend, launching a major operation after the Iranians said Israel might seek to kill them, three sources told Reuters.

Pakistan deployed some two dozen jets in the escort, as well as the force's Airborne Warning and Control System for aerial surveillance to ensure the safety of the delegation back from Islamabad, said two Pakistani sources with knowledge of the operation.

One said similar security protection would be provided for subsequent talks if the Iranians ask for it, "otherwise Pakistani aircraft would receive them in Pakistan airspace". A third source involved in the talks said measures were already in the works ahead of an expected further round of talks as soon as this weekend.

Israel had Iran's foreign minister Araqchi (L) and parliament speaker Qalibaf on its strike list until Pakistan asked Washington to intervene to have them removed because there would be no one left to negotiate

Fear of being targeted

A regional diplomat briefed by Tehran, however, said Pakistan insisted on the escort after Iranian delegates raised the "hypothetical" possibility of a threat. The discussions with the Iranian delegation about a potential threat while travelling and the presence of a Pakistani air escort into Iran have not previously been reported.

The Israeli prime minister's office, Iran's permanent mission in Geneva, Pakistan's air force and military, and the US embassy in Islamabad did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

"When the talks failed, the Iranians were wary that things had not gone right. It was their suspicion that they might be targeted," one security source said. "This was a massive operational mission if you look at it from a pilot's point of view. You are taking responsibility for a delegation that is coming for talks, you are giving them air cover, you have potent fighters that counter any threat," the source said.

"We dropped them all the way to Tehran. Their security was our responsibility even beyond their time here," the source said. Sunday's mission to Iran included Chinese-made J-10 aircraft, the top jet in the Pakistani air force fleet, one official said.

Israel's strike list

The regional diplomat said the Iranians did not make a formal request but also did not "rule out the possibility that Israel could even strike the aircraft", prompting Pakistan to insist on providing a security escort. The delegation did not land in Tehran, the diplomat said, declining to say where they were dropped off.

Israel had Araqchi and Qalibaf on its strike list until Pakistan asked Washington to intervene to have them removed because there would be no one left to negotiate on the war the US and Israel launched.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said last month, "I wouldn't issue life insurance policies on any of the leaders of the terrorist organisation," referring to Iran. "I don't intend to provide an exact report here about what we are planning or what we are going to do." REUTERS

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A thought for today

You cannot fashion a wit
out of two half-wits

NEIL KINNOCK

Dose of Witamin

Govts with a sense of humour get our vote

Free speech is a good thing: ask Iranians who've been pounding at Trump with jokes and memes on X. It won't win them the war, but it's certainly winning them fans worldwide. How ironic! A regime that won't let its people speak up – reportedly they killed over 30,000 protesters in Jan – is riding freedoms first made sacrosanct in world's oldest democracy, aka, US of A. One just hopes Iranian diplomats' memeing and joking aren't happening at gunpoint.

No, seriously, autocracy and humour are strange bedfellows. In Stalin's time, Soviet comedy aimed to "kill with laughter", enemies, and "correct with laughter", loyalists. Although what it begot was Stalinist jokes, like the one about a peasant saving Stalin from drowning, and then pleading: "Don't tell anyone I saved you." Regardless of what it did for the regime, humour made life liveable for *hoi polloi*. As Gorbachev famously said, "The jokes always saved us." And no doubt, whether in Russia, China, N Korea, or Iran, there are jokes aplenty about rulers.

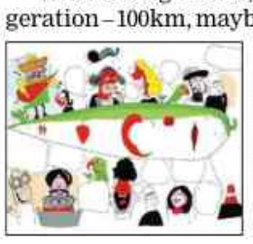
But what about "real" democracies? Do wit and humour have a place in their lexicon? Absolutely. The chief flaw in govt messaging everywhere is that it's too dry, like a civics chapter in school. The vast majority gloss over it, making the message, effectively, undemocratic. But it needn't be so. During WW2, US got Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr Seuss, to write a light-hearted pamphlet on malaria prevention for troops. Across the pond, Lord Woolton, Britain's food minister, deployed wit even more effectively. His advice, "One for you, one for me, and none for the pot," reportedly saved Britain 50 shiploads of tea every year. He was even more successful with his rhyme on potatoes: "Those who have the will to win/Cook potatoes in their skin/Knowing that the sight of peelings/Deeply hurts Lord Woolton's feelings." We need some LPG and petrol/diesel rhymes ourselves.

400 Shades Of Chillies

India's cuisines are too diverse to be boxed in

The potato crowns Bengal's biryani, squished some, it's ubiquitous in political rallies, in greasy foil packets. Meanwhile, biryani makers are finding workarounds for fuel shortages. Netas, of course, spar on fish, like fishbones stuck painfully, making claims difficult to swallow.

What's delightful is, cuisine across India changes every – no exaggeration – 100km, maybe even less. Topography, culture, phenomenal spices – a turn in the road can take one to a new land and food. Take biryani – 26 types, more variations in southern states than north's ever known. Take dal – over 50 varieties, cooked in a zillion ways. Because, every line that draws diversity adds a culinary twist too – by region, faith, caste, foreign influence (Parsi, Portuguese, Dutch, boring British food). As for Chinese, we verily own it. No snide comments, please.



So, never ask for Indian cuisine. It means nothing. If amchur works for Lucknow, it's kokum for Kochi. South knows not, kasuri methi. North delights in coconut, only in sweets. One cook's ghee is another's coconut milk. India's a land of infinite cuisine combos, and specificities, and rivalries – coastal to landlocked, valleys to mountains, desert to subtropics & tropics. We have 400 shades of red chillies alone, a pinch of this, a dash of that – it makes food a year-round celebration. In fact, only if you eat a totally different cuisine, every day of the year, can you – probably – boast you've explored cuisine from All Over India. But you still can't say, you've eaten everything there's in "Indian cuisine". There's no such thing.

No Country For Chigurh, Lecter

Are psychopaths real? Maybe, but evidence is scarce

mindfield
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS

Norman Bates in *Psycho*, Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs*, Anton Chigurh in *No Country for Old Men*. We owe our understanding and dread of 'psychopaths' to these bad men. But ***Rasmus Rosenberg Larsen***, assistant professor at University of Toronto Mississauga, says our fears are unfounded. In his book, ***Psychopathy Unmasked: The Rise and Fall of a Dangerous Diagnosis***, he argues psychopathy – the disease – and psychopaths don't exist.

It takes courage to say that when your peers have written tomes on psychopathy. The word 'psychopath' occurs pretty often in books now. It's actually caught up with 'psychotherapist', which had a strong lead from 1970. Plus, psychopaths are the delight of crime reporters and readers alike. So, what does Larsen know that others don't?

Before going there, let's fix what psychopath means outside cinema. In his 1993 book, *Without Conscience*, Robert Hare described them as 1) social predators, 2) capable of charming and manipulating others, 3) ruthless, 4) lacking in conscience and feeling for others, 5) contemptuous of social norms and expectations. That's Chigurh, alright.

The idea of psychopathy has been around for 240 years, although US doctor Benjamin Rush called it "anomia" first. In 1786, he described it as loss of ability to distinguish between good and evil. By 1940s, psychiatrists believed it was a neurological problem – psychopaths had shallow emotions *and* the ability to mask this "disability", to appear normal. Chigurh again.

By the time *Psycho* released in 1960, the word psychopath had already hit its first peak in medical and other literature. The "era" of notorious serial killers like Ted Bundy and Jeffrey Dahmer, that lasted till the 1980s, was starting. Research suggests this was partly the effect of disturbed families: shell-shocked fathers carrying trauma home from WW2. Leaded petrol, which has been linked to crime waves, may have had a hand, too. India phased it out between 1994 and 2000.

So, what with serial killers – real and fictional – around, psychopathy does seem like a very real problem. But Larsen wants proof. "We have never convincingly documented individuals with a disorderly psychology that renders them incapable of empathy, emotions, impulse control and so forth," he writes. Although there have been "hundreds of empirical studies" since the 1990s – post-*Silence of the Lambs* – "virtually every single claim about psychopathy has been either thoroughly refuted or failed to find empirical support in experimental settings."

Was Bundy – who confessed to 30 murders – a psychopath? Larsen says he had all kinds of mental health problems, including low self-esteem, delusions and violent sexual urges. "Most (if not all) serial killers we know of, never appear to be clear cases of psychopathy once we begin to scrutinise their psychology."

If psychopathy is not a real disease, how has it entrenched itself in medical literature? Larsen says it's because of the tough-on-crime approach of the 1990s. It became a convenient "waste-basket" diagnosis that you could stick on anyone, if no other explanation was found for their behaviour. In fact, a 2012 study found psychopathic traces in a third of 42 former US presidents, including Kennedy and Reagan.

Larsen says the problem isn't just that psychopathy is a myth, but that its diagnosis can unfairly target people who pose no "extraordinary threat to public health and safety". Instead of making society safer by identifying possible serial killers, it is a "vessel for unjustified legal discrimination".

Still Supreme (Mis)leader

European leaders may be uncomfortable with Trump's Iran war, but won't dare criticise him. For, US remains the guarantor of Western security. But European publics are increasingly losing patience with this hypocrisy, punishing those seen as close to Trump

Rashmee Roshan Lall

Columnist based in London

The spectacular election defeat of Hungary's longtime strongman, Viktor Orbán, is just the latest in a clutch of ballots that shows European publics' increasing disenchantment with the Trump-style gospel of militant Christian nationalism. And yet, the establishment – European govts and EU itself – is still not at the point of abandoning its mad, uncrowned king.

There are few voices as sane as French senator, Claude Malhuret, who quoted a Turkish proverb to underline the West's emperor-has-no-clothes moment: "When a clown moves into a palace, he doesn't become king; it's the palace that becomes a circus." Even so morally challenged, a US president is still described by many as 'leader of the free world'. The central figure in the establishment's projection of power and glory, he remains the West's supreme (mis)leader.

Some 80 years after World War II, an American president is still the vessel in which countries that formerly thought or acted like 'great powers', pour their security hopes. They continue to behave as if he's right, even when they know he's wrong. For all of Trump's flaws, not least venality, vengefulness, and vanity, European govts are reluctant to speak as loudly and clearly as Pope Leo. In overwhelmingly Muslim Algeria, on the first ever visit by a Catholic pope, Leo has blasted violations of international law by "neocolonial" world powers.

Europe's problem has been clear from the moment Trump launched his capricious, tragic, and ultimately pointless war on Iran six weeks ago. It said 'no' to Trump's demand for hosannas and help, but didn't seem to mean it, and few could have missed the forked tongue.

There were public disavowals of support. "Not our war," said European leaders. But few called out the illegality of massive, sustained, supposedly pre-emptive strikes, when there was no available evidence Iran posed an imminent danger to US (or Israel).

Several countries have spent weeks of this conflict allowing their military bases to be used to fuel, arm, and launch US attacks. Britain has engaged in particularly hideous contortions, to legally stay out of the war, while also trying to seem within the bounds of international law, for permitting US to use two bases for "defensive" purposes.

Even Trump's dangerous launch of a US military blockade of Iran's blockade of the critical Strait of Hormuz, did not elicit a robust response to this potential violation of maritime law. Keir Starmer merely said UK was "not supporting" it. Emmanuel Macron promised yet another UK-France-organised confab, to assemble a multinational mission in the Strait. It was left to Spain, whose PM was the only European leader to forcefully reject the war from day one, to say the blockade "makes no sense" as a manoeuvre.

Image: AI

Except for Madrid, the chorus across European capitals has been largely consistent throughout this war. International law does not apply equally to everyone, morality is even more selective, and principle is hostage to pusillanimous pragmatism.

Germany's Friedrich Merz has said the war may be a response to international law reaching its "limits". Italy's Giorgia Meloni told parliament, Trump's war violated international law, but that she neither condemned nor condoned it. European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, told EU ambassadors that even to debate if this is an illegal war of choice, or an essential war of necessity, "partly misses the point". Instead, Europe must focus on "the reality of the situation".

This realism could be explained in many different ways, but one of the more persuasive has to be the shared belief in Western exceptionalism. Not just former 'great powers' Britain, France, Germany, and Italy, which became relatively passive cheerleaders of American superpower, but the geopolitical West. It isn't bounded by hemisphere, of course, but the sense it is inheritor, protector, and conveyor of systems that boast "classical" virtues, such as rationality, justice, and democracy.

And yet, its establishment appears incapable of making a decisive break with barbaric displays of military force, and rhetoric threatening the end of an entire civilisation.

Western publics seem to be taking a somewhat different view to the establishment, however, and the split is showing up in opinion polls and actual voting booths. Hungary, of course, but also France, Slovenia, Italy, and Denmark. All show the risks of being too publicly tied to Trump.

France's far right National Rally, recently failed to win major cities in the municipal elections, deflating its growing sense of invincibility. In Slovenia, birthplace of Melania, the incumbent liberal PM defeated his Trump-admiring rival. Italy's Meloni, who's revelled in her close relationship with Trump, suffered a damaging defeat in a referendum on key changes to the country's post-fascism constitution. And Denmark's Social Democrat PM, a firm opponent of Trump's attempted Greenland grab, secured another term in office.

The populist far right has been paying heed. With an eye on two state elections in Sept, Germany's AfD party has suddenly discovered the value of "balanced relations with all international players", including Russia and China, and also limited its senior leaders' visits to Washington. France's National Rally has dubbed Trump's war aims "erratic". Even Brexit-and-Trump-supporting prominent figures on the British right, have begun to pivot away from the US president. Reform Party's Nigel Farage, who has long flashed his personal relationship with Trump as a badge of pride, is now trying to downplay it. "I happen to know him, but that's by the by," he said recently.

It all sounds fairly mild. But for context, consider the paucity of establishment figures, who have found it within themselves to call out the sheer wickedness of waging war on a whim. Thus far, the main principle appears to be pragmatism.

'Gen Z Walks Into A Bar...And Orders Water'

Our relationships, even with ourselves, shift when the blur of alcohol is gone. Vulnerability isn't outsourced to a fifth glass of wine. Joy becomes less about the shared high, more about shared presence

Chetan Bhagat

Here's something surprising: the world is drinking less alcohol. Sure, it's still strictly regulated. There are age limits, massive taxes, tough licensing, restrictions on sales & advertising, and some places even have total prohibition. All this suggests that alcohol is one of those vices that if left unchecked, humans would go crazy over. And yet, global trends are clear. Sales are dropping. People don't want to drink, not as much as they used to.

In US, Gallup polling indicates that, these days, only 54% of Americans drink at all, a 90-year low. Total beverage alcohol volumes are down across the top 20 markets. Even in wine and beer loving Europe, market research has found that a whopping 71% of consumers are drinking less, or cutting out alcohol altogether. This isn't just a blip – it's a pattern across generational lines and global markets.

India, however, is seeing alcohol sales volumes grow around 7% annually. But a lot of this is due to our low base. Compared to West's per capita consumption of close to 8-9 litres per year, India only guzzles around 3 litres. There's some catching up happening. Plus, we have a large young population, which means a lot of people entering drinking age every year.

What's likely is that, eventually, alcohol sales will peak and start seeing declining in India, as well. There are early signs of this in certain urban segments. In big cities, there are pockets where beer and traditional liquor consumption is flattening, or dipping, among younger Gen Z drinkers.

Why is the world drinking less?

- People today are more health-conscious than ever. Fewer cigarettes, more yoga, more green juice...mean less booze. There's a growing preference for wellness over hangovers.
- We are now a 'constant surveillance society'. One of the effects of drinking (and the common reason why people do it) is that it helps people open up and let go. It eases the normal filters of conversation and behaviour, which our brain applies when sober. After a few drinks, you can dance like an idiot on restaurant tables, or speak nonsense, basically do various things you never would, if you were not under the influence. And the fact is, we no longer live in a 'let go' society.

There's a video camera in every pocket. You can be recorded and shared, making a fool of yourself. Bad dates to bar brawls to awful dancing to puking to passing out, all part of one's personal alcohol life, can bring tremendous shame if shared with the world. You could also lose your job, get cancelled, or worse. The conclusion, particularly amongst Gen Z, is: Don't drink.

Image: AI

- Our social life has shifted online. And phone-to-phone socialising doesn't require a beer in your hand.
- The science on alcohol damage has gotten super scary with time. Studies have now made it clear that alcohol is bad for us, even in moderation, and that message really resonates with the younger cohort.
- The GLP-1 effect is also real. Nearly half of people taking drugs like Ozempic, report cutting back on alcohol, and most of them continue to drink less even after getting off the med itself.

Basically, it's a cocktail of health, psychology, convenience, and medication that's quietly reshaping India's drinking culture. Where drinking was the social glue, its absence may mean less socialisation, which is nasty. But the big (and these are really big) positives are 1) Better health outcomes (less liver disease, fewer alcohol-related deaths), 2) Lower crime and accidents related to intoxication, and 3) Rise of healthy alternatives, like non-alcoholic beverages and sober events.

All this is also impacting modern relationships. Choosing not to drink reshapes assumptions about how to have 'fun' together. First dates hit differently, when alcohol cannot mask incompatibility. Without 'liquid courage', we say things, and show vulnerability, differently. Without nights of drinking, which can escalate into fighting, new communication patterns emerge. The party couple transitioning to genuine intimacy can be a powerful thing.

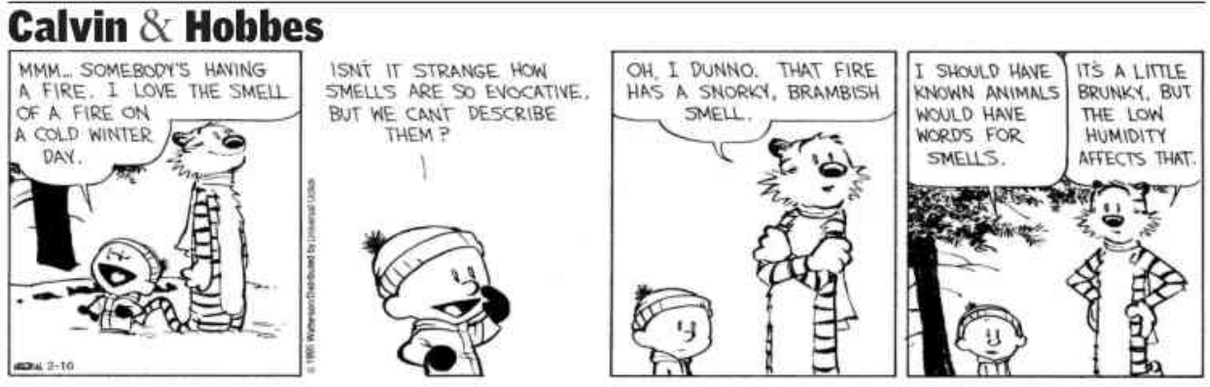
For couples juggling careers, side hustles, and the constant hum of digital life, sobriety can also feel like an efficiency upgrade. No hangovers, fewer wasted weekends, more intentional time together. Yes, going dry can feel like a productivity hack for love.

More importantly, without alcohol, partners are left to confront each other – and themselves – more directly. Vulnerability isn't outsourced to a fifth glass of wine. Joy becomes less about the shared high, and more about shared presence. Without the blur, what remains is the reality of the relationship.

Real social life, meaningful connections, laughter, and presence...those are the things worth living for. So, here's to sipping less alcohol, but savouring more of life. Cheers!

Of Life And Love
STORIES OF THE WAY WE ARE

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace

Be afraid of nothing. Hating none, giving love to all, feeling the love of God, seeing His presence in everyone, and having but one desire – for His constant presence in the temple of your consciousness – that is the way to live in this world.

Paramhansa Yogananda

The Path To Inner Edge For Outer Success

Jaya Row

Gita is the most powerful and comprehensive guide on how an ordinary mortal can rise above petty, personal distractions to become the extraordinary immortal Spirit. Gita translates deep philosophy into a powerful technique for everyday living. It has inspired seekers worldwide for centuries and has been translated into almost every major language. Yet, despite its popularity, its true depth often remains unexplored.

The setting of Gita is the battlefield of Kurukshetra, representing the inner battlefield we all experience – moments of doubt, anxiety, conflict, and indecision. Though Gita was delivered thousands of years ago, its relevance is timeless. Its principles apply to every individual, regardless of age, profession, or geography. It speaks directly to the challenges of modern life. Gita is a dialogue between Krishn, the guru, and Arjun, his dear friend and leader of the Pandavs. On the brink of a great war, Arjun is overwhelmed. Faced with the prospect of fighting his own relatives, teachers, and loved ones, he loses clarity and courage. He drops his bow, unable to act. At that critical moment, Krishn transforms his thinking. Through a masterful blend of psychology and philosophy, Krishn helps Arjun rise above emotional turmoil, rediscover his purpose, and take decisive action.

This conversation reflects the struggles we face every day, the tension between right and wrong, long-term purpose and short-term comfort, clarity and confusion. Each of us faces battles within, between our higher aspirations and lower impulses, between discipline and distraction, between intellect and the mind.

THE SPEAKING TREE

However, amid these challenges, we need to stand between the two opposing forces and dive deep into our inner being. Find our purpose, mission, and inner calling. Then we will get the answers and gain the strength to overcome adversity. All problems are self-created. Hence, the solutions must also lie within. As long as we look outward, the situation appears insurmountable. Look within, and problems vanish.

Krishn, the jagadguru or universal mentor, is depicted as an expert flute player. The flute is a simple hollow instrument with seven apertures. Krishn had mastered the art of creating enchanting music from it. The flute represents our personality: five senses, mind, and intellect. Not having learnt and mastered the technique of living, we bring out discordant notes. When we empty ourselves of negativity, desire and ego, captivating music emerges from our personality.

The goal of all beings is happiness. But we do not know where it lies or how to obtain it. We are all chasing a mirage when oasis of bliss lies within. The Gita spells out the formula for happiness and prescribes the pathway to it: service, love, and knowledge. Act with the spirit of giving, expand your circle of love, and understand that everything in the world is transient.

The message of Gita is transformative: you are far more powerful than you believe. You are not merely a limited, stressed individual trying to cope with life. You are the very source of energy that sustains your body, drives your thoughts, and fuels your aspirations. The same intelligence that governs the universe operates within you.

Jaya Row conducts Bhagwad Gita classes in Mumbai, Wed 6.30-7.45pm. WhatsApp 9920054000

MOTOR MATTERS

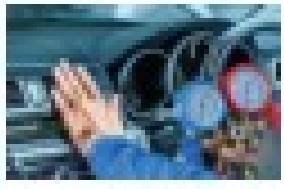
An SUV for Pope Leo built in his hometown Chicago

First electric convertible by Rolls-Royce unveiled

RAISIN VIRAL

'Driving on hill roads has made me a hands-on driver'

Summer proof your drive: Get the most out of your car AC



Why buying a car on Akshaya Tritiya is seen as auspicious

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

The Week That Was...

Sensex gains for 2nd week in a row on W Asia peace talks

Lower oil prices and hopes of US-Iran talks lifted sentiment on the D-St. Sensex and Nifty rose about 1.3% each, closing at 78,494 and 24,354 respectively. Broader small-caps and mid-caps added 4.3% and 3.6%, respectively

Sensex 1.2%

Sensex Gainers

Adani Ports	6.7%
Eternal	5.2%
Power Grid Corp	5.1%

Laggards

Maruti Suzuki	-1.9%
Mahindra & Mahindra	-1.8%
Bajaj Finance	-1.8%

GOLD 1.3% | CRUDE 5.9% | BITCOIN 5.9%

$442bn

Were India's exports in FY2026, 1% higher than the previous year despite the West Asia war affecting exports in March

Source: BSE, Reuters, screener.in

With three new units, UltraTech to take capacity past 200 MTPA

Mumbai: UltraTech Cement will cross 200 million tonnes of capacity after commissioning three grinding units totalling 8.7 million tonnes on Friday, cementing the Aditya Birla Group company's position as the world's largest cement producer outside China, with capacity nearly double that of the United States and exceeding the whole of the European Union. The milestone marks a rapid ascent: in 2019, UltraTech stood third globally outside China, with 100mn tonnes of capacity. "This scale is unprecedented. No other company in any sector in India has ever reached this capacity milestone," group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla said. The new units include units at Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Patratu (Jharkhand), and Vizag (Andhra Pradesh). The company also has capacities in the UAE, Bahrain, and Sri Lanka.

Birla reiterated that the company is targeting an increase in capacity to 240 MTPA by the end of FY28, at an investment of Rs 16,000 crore. Nearly two-thirds of its sales come from rural India, he added. AGENCIES

Property rates rise 14% in 13 major cities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Average property prices across 13 major cities rose 14% during the March quarter to Rs 14,633 a square feet, while demand was 1.5% higher compared to a year ago to 31.7 lakh units. Magicbricks PropIndex showed that Ahmedabad saw a 2.7% rise in demand even as other major centres saw a decline, including Noida (8.2%), Chennai (5.2%), Kolkata (4.7%), New Delhi (0.7%) and Pune (0.5%).

On the supply side, developers maintained strong momentum, with increases seen in Bengaluru (22.3%), Hyderabad (19.8%), and Kolkata (+12.1%), indicating a strong pipeline of new project launches. "This increase in supply is also accompanied by a clear shift toward premiumisation, with inventory in the Rs 3 crore-plus segment expanding across key cities," the company said.

Two-BHK (42%) and three-BHK (37%) houses accounted for nearly 80% of the demand, with mid-sized homes (750-1,250 sq ft.) dominating the market, it added.

41 India-Bound Ships Waiting To Cross Channel | Mkts Rejoice

Oilcos, exporters, importers cheer Hormuz Strait opening

Dipak Dash & Atul Mathur | TNN

New Delhi: Indian oil companies, fertiliser importers and exporters are cheering the opening of the Strait of Hormuz for commercial vessels.

There are 41 India-bound ships, both Indian and foreign-flagged, loaded with cargo, including crude, LPG, LNG and fertiliser, that are waiting to cross the narrow channel, where Iran has blocked normal movement since Feb 28, the day US and Israel launched a joint military strike.

Over a dozen of these ships are carrying fertilisers, which are crucial for India to receive before the kharif sowing starts. Of the vessels waiting west of Hormuz, 15 are Indian, while the remaining 26 are foreign-flagged. **TOI** has learnt that among these, 10 are loaded with crude oil, four are LPG tankers and three are carrying LNG.

Soon after the announcement, oil prices retreated below $90 levels, with Brent futures trading 11.5% lower at $87.9 a barrel. Lower oil prices will translate into lower transport costs.

"The fall in oil prices will result in a decline in international freight rates, which will be a big gain across sectors," said Dev Garg, director at Singapore-based shipping firm Eximwala Solutions.

Danish Shah of Pune-based Sanghar Exports said that with freight costs topping the price of a consignment of onions, exports to West Asia, a key market for his company, had almost stopped. In any case, with the uncertainty, banana exports to most of West Asia have been suspended given its perishable nature. "We need to see how shipping lines respond to it. Currently, it is unviable to export."

While exporters are hoping that normalcy returns in the Strait, they are also expected to push shipments over the next few days, subject to availability of ships and containers.

Amit Marwah, MD of Amritsar-based DRRK Foods, expects demand to increase from West Asia and his company's 18,000 tonnes of basmati rice stranded at Indian ports to start moving. "We are expecting bulk demand from the region, especially with freight rates expected to come down," he said. Freight rates have shot up four-to-five times compared to the $700 a container DRRK was paying to ship goods to Jeddah port.

"We will not just be able to push our goods to West Asia but this will result in a shorter route for cargo meant for Europe. It is positive for our exports in April," said Ajai Sahay, director general at exporters' body Fieo.

Officials tracking the developments said that around two dozen Middle East-bound ships are waiting at Indian ports. "Things will be clearer in the next couple of days as more ships start crossing the Strait. How shipping lines complete procedures and negotiate war risk charges with insurers remains to be seen. It takes four-to-six days for ships to travel from west of Hormuz to Indian ports. The resumption of free sailing will bring huge relief," said a senior official at a govt-owned port.

The arrival of cargo on ships waiting to clear the 36-km passage is expected to ease pressure on energy supplies, which have been disrupted for more than 45 days due to military conflict in West Asia and closure of Hormuz. India used diplomatic channels to ensure that nine Indian merchant ships — all carrying LPG, the primary cooking fuel in the country — crossed the Strait safely. Govt has not shared details of foreign-flagged vessels, saying these relate to trade and are chartered by different firms.

To ensure there was no shortage of energy supplies, officials said India secured supplies from diversified sources during this period.

FREIGHT RATES SEEN GOING DOWN

- Exporters are hoping that normalcy returns in Hormuz Strait
- They are expected to push shipments over few days, subject to availability of ships and containers
- "We are expecting bulk demand from the region (West Asia), especially with freight rates expected to come down — *Amit Marwah, MD of DRRK Foods*
- Freight rates have shot up four-to-five times compared to $700 a container DRRK was paying to ship goods to Jeddah port
- "Fall in oil prices will result in a decline in international freight rates, which will be a big gain across sectors —*Dev Garg, director at shipping firm Eximwala Solutions*

Egypt, Jordan in expanded RELIEF list

New Delhi: Govt on Friday expanded the list of eligible destinations under RELIEF scheme for exporters amid the West Asia crisis, which has impacted the country's exports. On March 19, govt launched the Rs 497 crore Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation scheme to assist exporters facing disruptions due to the conflict. "With this expansion, Egypt and Jordan have been added to the list of eligible countries for shipments meant for delivery or transhipment, under the relevant provisions of the RELIEF framework," the commerce ministry said. AGENCIES

Cognizant CEO's pay up 29% to $10.6 million

US Median Salary $140,739 Vs India $14,136

Stark Contrast | Pay Ratio Widens To 1,523:1

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Bengaluru: Cognizant CEO Ravi Kumar's realised compensation for 2025 stood at $10.6 million, up nearly 29% from the previous year, according to the company's 2026 proxy filing. This included a base salary of $1.3 million, an annual cash incentive of $4.3 million, and RSU payouts of $4.9 million. Realised compensation reflects the actual pay received by a named executive in a given year.

Kumar's realised pay was significantly lower than his target direct compensation of $19 million, largely because his 2025 PSU grants are scheduled to vest in future years, subject to performance conditions.

Among peers, C Vijayakumar was the highest-paid CEO in Indian IT last year with total compensation of $10.8 million. Infosys CEO Salil Parekh saw a 22% increase in pay to Rs 80.6 crore, while Wipro CEO Srinivas Pallia earned Rs 53.6 crore in his first year in the role.

Cognizant chief financial officer Jatin Dalal's realised compensation came in at $6.6 million, slightly above his $6 million target, driven by higher-than-target payouts. This included a 2025 bonus at 169% of target, PSU vesting of about $2.2 million (around 118% of target), and RSU vesting of roughly $2.2 million, along with his base salary.

Cognizant delivered stronger-than-expected performance in 2025, exceeding the upper end of its revenue and margin guidance, supported by investments in AI, talent and large deals. Revenue rose 7% to $21.1 billion, with constant-currency growth of 6.4%, ahead of the revised 6%–6.3% guidance. Operating margin came in at 15.8%, above the earlier 15.3%–15.7% range. The company had initially guided for 3.5%–6% growth before raising it after the September quarter, and now expects 4%–6.5% growth in the current financial year. "We climbed from near the bottom of our peer group in 2022 to the winner's circle on relative growth," Kumar said.

For 2025, Kumar's SEC-reported compensation was $21.5 million. The company reported a worldwide median employee pay of $45,138. Based on CEO compensation of $21.5 million, this resulted in a CEO-to-median pay ratio of 477:1. In the US, the median employee earned $140,739, translating to a lower ratio of 153:1. These figures include cost-of-living adjustments based on Numbeo's 2025 indices. Without such adjustments, the global median employee would have been an India-based worker earning $14,136 annually, pushing the pay ratio to 1,523:1.

As of Dec last year, Cognizant had approximately 351,600 employees globally, including 256,900 in India, 41,600 in North America, 14,600 in Continental Europe, 7,800 in the UK, and about 30,700 across other regions.

BIG PAY, BIGGER RATIOS

- CEO **target compensation $19 million**; PSU payouts deferred to future years
- Global median employee pay $45,138; **CEO pay ratio 477:1**
- Without cost adjustment, pay ratio widens sharply to 1,523:1
- Revenue rises 7% to $21.1 billion, exceeds guidance range
- **India hosts 256,900** of Cognizant's 351,600 global workforce

Global mkts rally as Iran opens shipping channel

TNN & AGENCIES

Mumbai: The opening of the Strait of Hormuz, one of the most important shipping channels in the world for the flow of crude oil and natural gas, led to a global rally in stocks on Friday evening. This also overshadowed the muted trading witnessed during the early part of the day in all of Asia and some parts of Europe.

In the evening, the US markets opened sharply higher with Dow Jones up over 2% while S&P 500 was up 1.3% and Nasdaq Composite was up 1.6%. And in late trades in Europe, Dax in Germany was up 2.6% while FTSE in the UK was up 0.6%.

S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite indices were at new all-time highs, while Dow Jones was about 1% away from hitting a new life-high mark.

In India, in Gujarat's GIFT City, the nifty index was up 1.6%, indicating a strong open for the Indian markets on Monday, provided there are no spoilers for the upbeat investor sentiment on Dalal Street over the weekend.

Earlier in the day, after remaining in a narrow range for most of the session, sensex rallied in late trades to close 505 points up at 78,494 points on the back of weakness in crude prices because of the ceasefire declaration between Israel and Lebanon the previous evening. Reliance Industries and Hindustan Unilever contributed the most to the day's gain in the index.

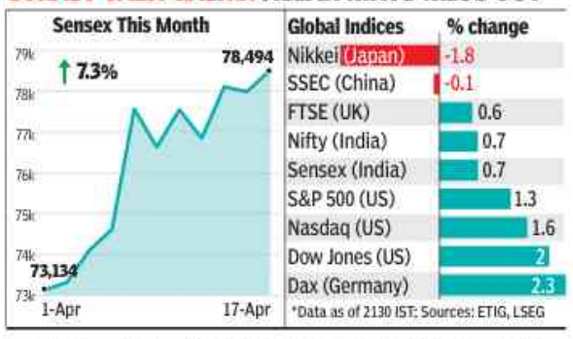
Foreign funds were net buyers in stocks during Friday's session with the net inflow at Rs 683 crore, BSE data showed. Domestic funds, on the other hand, were net sellers at Rs 4,721 crore.

The day's rally added nearly Rs 5 lakh crore to investors' wealth with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 465.5 lakh crore.

Going ahead, market players would be looking at two things: The second round of talks between the US and Iran, and the trajectory of the crude oil prices, market players said.

In precious metals, gold prices fell by Rs 1,600, or 1% while silver plunged Rs 5,700, or 2.2% amid subdued demand in the domestic market, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Globally, gold prices extended gains, supported by a weaker dollar and easing inflation concerns after reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Spot gold was up 1.5% at $4,860/oz. Spot silver rose 4.6% to $81.99/oz.

STRAIT TALK GAINS: ASIAN MKTS MISS OUT



Global Indices	% change
Nikkei (Japan)	-1.8
SSEC (China)	-0.1
FTSE (UK)	0.6
Nifty (India)	0.7
Sensex (India)	0.7
S&P 500 (US)	1.3
Nasdaq (US)	1.6
Dow Jones (US)	2
Dax (Germany)	2.3

*Data as of 2130 IST; Sources: ETIG, LSEG

Traders place $760mn bet on falling crude

London: Investors placed a bet worth about $760 million on a falling oil price around 20 minutes before Iran's foreign minister announced on Friday that the Strait of Hormuz was open, another sizeable wager on the world's most traded commodity ahead of major announcements in the course of the West Asia war. Large, well-timed trades in recent months have drawn concern from US lawmakers and legal experts that decisions around war and diplomacy can give some traders an edge in volatile and opaque derivatives markets. REUTERS

Re regains 92 level, closes 27p higher

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The rupee regained 92 levels and closed at 92.93, 27 paise stronger than its previous close. The gains followed reports that the RBI has asked oil companies to not purchase dollars from the open market but to rely on a line of credit provided through SBI.

Such a move would remove one of the major sources of demand from the interbank foreign exchange market. Dealers said that the initial gains were on account of a policy move but it was a pointer to RBI preparing for a medium term volatility in the forex market. The RBI did not comment on the news of a special window for oil companies.

The news of the Strait of Hormuz being reopened for shipping traffic came after market hours. Dealers said that the consequent fall in crude oil prices would be a major positive for the rupee.

After being the worst performer among Asian currencies in the first quarter, the rupee has gained significantly since end-March and is the second best performer among Asian currencies.

Meanwhile, India's forex reserves jumped $3.8 billion to nearly $701 billion during the week ended April 10, said RBI. The kitty had expanded to an all-time high of $728.5 billion during the week ended Feb 27 this year, before the onset of the West Asia conflict.

Russia's SBER, 16 banks get nod to import gold

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/ Mumbai: The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) on Friday finally notified the list of banks eligible to import gold and silver — including Russia's SBER Bank for yellow metal — after it emerged that the absence of govt paperwork had resulted in bullion consignments getting held up.

In a note, Emkay Global said around five tonnes of gold and eight tonnes of silver were stuck at Indian customs. "DGFT hasn't renewed the list of banks that are allowed to import gold for FY27. So, even if gold has already arrived in India, it's literally stuck at customs," it said. Some of the banks had stopped fresh orders in the absence of a govt notification.

As reports of stuck consignments started emerging, DGFT swung into action to issue a notification allowing 15 banks to import gold and silver, starting April 1, while Union Bank of India and SBER Bank have been authorised to only import gold. The inclusion of SBER Bank indicates that India is looking to ship gold from Russia and the bank, with a branch in India too, being used for payments. World Gold Council said that domestic gold prices, which were trading at a discount to global prices, have seen the gap narrow due to tighter supply conditions on account of curbs as well as delay in customs clearances.

"Gold prices declined sharply in March in both US dollar and rupee terms, marking the weakest monthly performance in nearly 13 and 12 years, respectively. Prices fell by 12% in USD and 8% in INR terms," it said.

3 rice importers face China's ire

In a new twist to the Indo-China dispute over rice trade, Chinese authorities have suspended import licences of three Indian companies after rejecting their consignments on grounds that it was genetically modified organism (GMO) material. GMO relates to plants or animals whose DNA is altered to get desired traits. TNN

Zoho moves defamation suit in Madras HC for ₹10cr damages

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Chennai: The Madras High Court on Friday granted leave to Zoho Corporation to initiate a Rs 10 crore civil damages suit against Flexype Technologies over an alleged defamatory post on social media relating to Zoho's accounting software.

"Upon considering the draft plaint and the additional affidavit, it appears that a part of the cause of action arose in Chennai, as the plaintiff asserts that it has a large number of users in Chennai. Therefore, this application is allowed, granting leave to the applicant to sue the respondents before this court," said the judge Justice Senthilkumar Ramamoorthy, and posted the suit for hearing on April 22.

The issue pertains to a social media post made by Azeem Hussain, co-founder of Flexype Technologies, commenting on the reliability of Zoho's accounting software. Aggrieved, Zoho has moved the high court seeking directions to Flexype to pay Rs 10 crore as compensation for reputational damage and to grant a permanent injunction for the removal of all alleged defamatory content, including the social media post, and to restrain them from publishing any such statements in the future.

Amid disputes, Singh skips Tata trust meeting

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Mumbai: Vijay Singh, a former Indian defence secretary whose eligibility as a trustee has come under legal challenge, absented himself from the board meeting of the Bai Hirabai Jamsetji Tata Navsari Charitable Institution on Friday, the latest sign of an intensifying governance dispute within India's most powerful philanthropic network.

The challenge was brought by Mehli Mistry, a former trustee, before the Maharashtra charity commissioner, questioning the appointments of Singh and Venu Srinivasan as trustees of Bai Hirabai. Mistry cited clauses in the 1923 trust deed requiring all trustees to be Zoroastrians and permanent residents of Mumbai, and argued that neither of them met those conditions.

Srinivasan, chairman emeritus of TVS Motors, stepped down citing other commitments, but later acknowledged he had done so at the request of Tata Trusts management. Singh declined a similar request.

Those present at the Friday meeting included chairman Noel Tata, trustees Darius Khambata and Jehangir HC Jehangir, the last of whom joined by video conference from Europe. Jimmy Tata, Noel's older half-brother and a fellow trustee, was again absent. Singh confirmed he did not attend the meeting. A person familiar with the proceedings said the board discussed, among other matters, Mistry's objections and next steps.

POWER PLAY

The dispute has exposed a deeper legal tension. Both Srinivasan and Singh alleged that Tata Trusts had withheld from them a legal opinion by former chief justice of India MH Kania, who held that the restrictive eligibility clauses in Bai Hirabai's trust deed were "bad in law."

That interpretation had previously allowed former Tata Group director RK Krishnakumar to be inducted onto the board. Tata Trusts said irrespective of that opinion and past precedent, appointments of non-Zoroastrians remained open to challenge under the deed's provisions, adding that a legal opinion did not substitute for a judicial pronouncement. The commissioner has yet to order a formal inquiry. Bai Hirabai was endowed by Sir Ratan Tata, younger son of Tata Group founder Jamsetji Tata, who bequeathed properties in Mumbai and Navsari to the institution, the provenance that gives its century-old deed its continuing legal force.

Oil, gas plunge on hope for end of war in Gulf

Oil and European natural gas prices tumbled after Iran said that the Strait of Hormuz is "completely open," raising hopes that the unprecedented disruption to the critical shipping artery may soon be nearing an end.

Brent futures retreated near $89 a barrel in London, erasing most gains since the start of the US-Iran war, while West Texas Intermediate slumped to around $83 in New York. European benchmark gas prices fell as much as 10% near 38 euros a megawatt-hour. Prices plummeted after Iran said it would open the Strait of Hormuz for the duration of a 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.The waterway is now "completely open" for commercial shipping, Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi posted on X on Friday.

"The market is now pricing that the war and the closure of the Strait is over," said Arne Lohmann Rasmussen, chief analyst at Global Risk Management. "That said we notice that it is only for vessels going along the Iranian coast line. So maybe not a full opening."

Friday's moves stoked optimism there may be an end in sight to the seven-week long conflict, which ushered in the worst global energy supply disruption in recent history. In oil markets, trend-following commodity trading advisers liquidated long positions to sit at 27% long in Brent on Friday, compared with 82% at the start of the session, according to data from Kpler's Bridgeton Research group.

Between Europe and the US, gasoil and diesel prices led the oil complex down, with gasoil prices falling by as much as 16% at their lows of the day. BLOOMBERG

Indian refiners purchase Iranian oil, pay in yuan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Using the one-month window provided by a temporary US sanctions waiver, Indian refiners purchased Iranian oil and settled payments in Chinese yuan, people aware of the development said on Friday.

Iran insists on payment in Chinese yuan for oil to bypass US-led financial sanctions that restrict its access to the dollar-dominated global banking system, prompting Indian Oil and Reliance Industries to opt for this route. While the US dollar has been the preferred currency for import payments, India has previously paid for Russian oil in rupees and UAE dirhams.

Reports suggest that India also made payments for some volumes of Russian crude in Chinese yuan last year in the wake of Western sanctions.

For the Iranian crude, the payment was made by ICICI Bank through its branch in Shanghai, with other banks not being present in China. The refiners and the ICICI Bank could not be reached for comment.

When asked, Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in the petroleum ministry, said the oil marketing companies were making all efforts to line up the cargo so that the domestic demand could be met. She said they were operating within govt rules.

The Trump administration had allowed a waiver on US sanctions for purchase of Russian and Iranian crude already at sea, to cool prices driven up by the West Asia conflict.

Using this window, both state-owned and private refiners purchased Russian and Iranian oil to plug supply shortages. Officials said more crude cargoes from Tehran are expected before the waiver expires on Sunday.

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SNAP SHOTS

Alcaraz, Djoko withdraw

Carlos Alcaraz withdrew from the Madrid Masters on Friday, increasing concerns over whether he will be able to defend his Roland Garros title. The world No.2 played in the Barcelona Open first round before pulling out on Wednesday because of a wrist injury. Earlier, 24-time Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic also pulled out of the tournament, which begins on April 21.

Vondrousova faces doping probe: Czech tennis player Marketa Vondrousova is facing doping investigation after refusing to let in a doping control officer at her home in Prague.

Chotrani in quarters: Indian world No. 47 Veer Chotrani defeated German eighth seed Raphael Kandra 11-8, 11-7, 11-7 in the men's second round to move into the quarterfinals of the Hamburg Open squash. However, his compatriots, fifth seed Abhay Singh, seventh seed Ramit Tandon, and Joshna Chinappa, bowed out.

Shubhankar ends title drought: Shubhankar Sharma delivered a dominating performance to win the inaugural Boulders Classic, in Hyderabad on Friday. Making a highly anticipated return to the DP World PGTI circuit for his first domestic event since Dec 2021, Shubhankar took control early with back-to-back six-under 66s. He all but sealed the contest with a mammoth seven-shot lead heading into the final day. He carded an eight-under 64 which also equalled the course record.

Aditi placed T-59: Aditi Ashok began her week in Los Angeles with a round of 2-under 70 to find herself placed tied 59th on the leaderboard at the JM Eagle LA Championship on the LPGA Tour.

Pranavi best among Indians: Pranavi Urs carded a bogey free 3-under 70 in the first round of the Joburg Ladies Open on the Ladies European Tour and was best placed to make the cut among the five Indians at the event. She was tied-21st at the Par-73. Tvesa Malik and Diksha Dagar ended the first round at 1-under 72 and were tied 54th while Avani Prashanth shot 2-over 75 and Hitaashee Bakshi also had a disappointing day with 4-over 77.

Mane fires flawless 64: Udayan Mane shot an eight-under 64 with a hole-in-one to open up a six-shot lead after round two of the IGPL Invitational South Africa in Johannesburg. Having shot a bogey-free seven-under 65 on the opening day, Mane went one better to move to 15-under, the only player in double digits under par. Trailing Mane in tied second place were Manav Shah (65-70), Pukhraj Singh Gill (66-69) and Gaganjeet Bhullar (67-68).

Lawsuit filed against Messi: Lionel Messi is facing a lawsuit from a Miami-based event promoter that alleges the football star breached a contract by failing to play in an exhibition match last year, according to court records filed on Mar 31.

CANADA T20 WC GAME UNDER THE SCANNER

ICC Probes Corruption Charges; Captain Bajwa's 15-Run Over Against NZ In Focus

Reuters

DILPREET BAJWA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The International Cricket Council (ICC)'s Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) has launched multiple investigations into allegations of corruption and governance failures involving Cricket Canada, with one probe centering on a match from the recent men's T20 World Cup co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

The ACU is currently handling two active investigations that comprise both international and domestic cricket in Canada. The allegations surfaced in a 43-minute documentary titled 'Corruption, Crime and Cricket' aired by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The film makes sweeping claims about corruption, mismanagement and structural issues within Canadian cricket.

One of the central allegations relates to Canada's T20 World Cup match against New Zealand. The documentary highlights the fifth over of New Zealand's chase, bowled by Canada captain Dilpreet Bajwa, as a moment of concern. Bajwa, a 22-year-old batting allrounder who bowls off-spin, had only been appointed captain three weeks before the tournament.

At the time he came on to bowl, New Zealand were 35/2. Canada had started with pace through Jaskaran Singh and Dilon Heyliger, who conceded 15 and 14 runs respectively. The introduction of spin brought brief success, as Saad bin Zafar delivered a wicket maiden in the third over and Heyliger picked up a wicket in the fourth. However, Bajwa's over raised eyebrows. It began with a no-ball, included a wide down the leg side and ended with 15 runs being conceded.

The second aspect of the investigation stems from a leaked phone recording involving former Canada coach Khurram Chohan. In the audio, Chohan allegedly claims that senior, now former, board members pressured him to select certain players for the national team. The recording also includes claims of attempted match-fixing although investigators have reportedly faced difficulties in corroborating those allegations with concrete evidence.

Another former coach, Pubudu Dassanayake, echoes similar concerns in the documentary. He alleges undue interference in team selection ahead of the 2024 T20 World Cup, claiming the board attempted to force his hand and threatened termination when he resisted. Dassanayake is currently suing Cricket Canada for "wrongful dismissal" as the national team head coach.

Responding to the documentary, Andrew Ephgrave, interim general manager of the ICC's Integrity Unit, confirmed awareness of the broadcast but declined to comment on specific allegations, citing standard procedure.

CHENNAIYIN BEAT DELHI TO BREAK HOME JINX; ODISHA SPLIT POINTS

M.Sudharshan @timesofindia.com

Chennai: At long last, Chennaiyin FC gave their fans a reason to cheer, breaking their home jinx in the Indian Super League this season after beating Sporting Club Delhi here on Friday.

Farukh Choudhary's 11th-minute strike handed them a 1-0 win and took CFC to eight points from eight matches, same as Delhi's. After a bright attacking start, Farukh, receiving a pass from Alberto Noguera on the left, advanced into the box and unleashed a shot with his weaker left foot. Goalkeeper Nora Fernandes could not do much and watched it sail over him into the top-right corner.

ISL

Just before half-time, defender Alex Saji denied CFC a two-goal cushion. Irfan Yadwad delivered a teasing cross from the right that fell kindly for Daniel Chima Chukwu, but just as the striker pulled the trigger, Saji from inside the six-yard box slid in to block and keep the lead in check.

After the break, the home side struggled to make inroads into the attacking third in the opening 10 minutes while Delhi kept creating opportunities.

Odisha FC settle for draw as Md Sp earn first point: Odisha FC's finishing woes continued to haunt them at home as well as they were held to a 1-1 draw by wooden spooners Mohammedan Sporting Club in the Indian Super League at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Friday, **reports Sourav Modak**.

For the Kolkata giants though, it was a welcome result as they brought home a point, their first in this edition following seven straight losses. The hosts had taken the lead in the 40th minute through VP Suhair while T Adison Singh scored the equaliser for MSC in the 57th minute as the game ended with scores level at the final whistle.

ISL seek role to find AIFF's rights partner

Marcus.Mergulhao @timesofindia.com

Panaji: Indian Super League (ISL) club owners have proposed the formation of a club working committee involving the owners and decision makers, who would then engage with the federation in a "structured and transparent" manner to find the best taker for its long-term commercial rights.

In a letter signed by 13 of the 14 owners, except Inter Kashi, the clubs said the group wanted to provide an appropriate platform through which ideas can be exchanged, common ground can be identified, and a balanced, sustainable, and mutually beneficial framework can be developed together.

The clubs proposed three owners — Bhavesh Jindal/ Dhruv Sood (SC Delhi), Nikhil Nimmagadda (Kerala Blasters) and Rohan Sharma (Odisha FC) — in the committee, while other representatives include Ravi Puskur (CEO, FC Goa), Ekansh Gupta (VP, Chennaiyin), Darren Caldeira (CEO, Bengaluru) and Vinay Chopra (director, Mohun Bagan SG).

The club owners' letter to AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey comes two days after the federation formed the ISL Governing Council and asked remaining six clubs to submit the name of their representative latest by Friday. The AIFF's response, interestingly, came after an online meeting of all club owners just a day earlier.

The club owners had little choice but join hands since the AIFF appears keen to accept the bid from Genius Sports and hand the London-based company the commercial rights of the ISL for 15+5 years. Genius' Rs 64.4 crore annual bid, or approx. Rs 2,130 crore over 20 years with a five percent increment per year, needs an approval from the general body.

The clubs aren't happy with the rights procees and believe it's important to engage with all stakeholders, primarily those who fund, build, and sustain the competition.

Villa-Forest showdown in semifinals

London: Aston Villa demolished Bologna and Nottingham Forest beat Porto in the Europa League on Thursday to set up an all-English showdown in the semifinals. Leading 3-1 from the quarter-final first leg, Unai Emery's team swatted aside Bologna with a 4-0 victory at Villa Park.

EUROPA LEAGUE

Forest, 12 spots below fourth-placed Villa in the Premier League, defeated 10-man Porto 1-0 in Nottingham to secure a 2-1 aggregate success.

Europa League specialist Emery has won the tournament four times. Ollie Watkins had scored twice in the first leg and the England striker tormented Bologna again. AGENCIES

Results (QF, 2nd leg): Celta Vigo 1 lost to Freiburg 3. Freiburg win 6-1 on aggr; Aston Villa 4 bt Bologna 0. Aston Villa win 7-1 on aggr; Real Betis 2 lost to Braga 4. Braga win 5-3 on aggr; Nottingham Forest 1 bt Porto 0. Nottingham win 2-1 on agg.

Max's frustration only natural: Russell

London: Championship favourite George Russell said he would understand if Max Verstappen walked away from Formula One in the sport's new era and he would not be surprised either way. Speaking to reporters via a video call on Friday, on what would have been a Saudi Grand Prix weekend but for the cancellation of April Middle Eastern races due to the Iran war, the Mercedes driver said his old rival's current frustration was "only natural".

Red Bull's four-times world champion Verstappen has been a vocal critic of the new rules and engines, and what he calls "anti-racing", and has said he will be doing "stuff that makes me smile" in the downtime before F1's next race in Miami in May.

"Formula One's bigger than any driver," said Russell when asked if he felt there was a danger Verstappen could decide he'd had enough. "You wouldn't want to lose Max because I think we all enjoy racing against Max," he added. "You do understand and recognise the frustration but he's achieved what most drivers dream of, winning a championship. He's got four of them. And at the end of the day I guess you get to a point in life that you want, there's not really much more for him to achieve in Formula One. "He's ticked all the boxes. Maybe he can go after the records but knowing him as I do and knowing drivers who have won or achieved similar things, at one point you want to do what puts a smile on your face."

Verstappen is racing a Mercedes GT3 sportscar in qualifiers at the Nuerburgring Nordschleife this weekend as he works towards competing in a 24-Hour endurance race at the circuit next month.

"The Nuerburgring is a special place. There's no other track like it," the 28-year-old Dutch driver had said. "The 24h Nuerburgring is a race that's been on my bucket list for a long time, so I'm really thrilled we can make it happen now," Russell, who has driven many laps of the historic 'Green Hell' track, said it would put a smile on anyone's face. REUTERS

Uber Cup: Women's doubles pair withdraws due to Treesa's ankle injury

New Delhi: Indian women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand has withdrawn from the upcoming Uber Cup Finals after the former sustained an ankle injury, dealing a blow to India's campaign in Denmark.

India will compete in the Thomas and Uber Cup Finals to be held in Horsens, Denmark, from April 24 to May 3.

"Treesa sadly twisted her ankle just 2-3 days before leaving for the Badminton Asia Championships. It was an accident during training . She stepped on her partner's foot," India's doubles coach B Sumeeth Reddy said.

"She is resting now and will undergo rehabilitation. It is not a major injury and she should recover in about four weeks. She will look to return at the Singapore Open at the end of May," he added. PTI

Neeraj, Antil allege harassment by coach

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Allegations of harassment against veteran coach Naval Singh by India's top stars including Neeraj Chopra, Deepa Malik and Sumit Antil have caused a furore in Indian athletics.

In a complaint mailed to the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the athletes alleged that Singh crossed all limits with his abusive language. "The statements made by coach Naval Singh are not just inappropriate, they are disgraceful. Abusive language directed at me, my family, and fellow athletes cross every boundary of professionalism and basic human decency. I am shocked and disappointed to hear such derogatory comments. This kind of behavior from a person in authority is intolerable and brings disrepute to the sporting system as a whole," Olympic and world javelin champion Chopra wrote, acknowlegding the complaint from Antil, a copy of which was also marked to him.

TROUBLED WATERS

Getty Images/TOI

IN FOCUS: Neeraj Chopra (left) and Sumit Antil

Paralympic gold-medallist Antil said the abuse has happened over a long period of time. "I have personally experienced repeated instances of verbal abuse, humiliation, and mental harassment under his conduct. The language used has been extremely degrading, not only towards athletes but also towards our families, including deeply disrespectful remarks about our mothers and even about esteemed athletes like Neeraj Chopra, Navdeep Singh, and Sandeep Chaudhary," Antil said in the complaint mailed to DG, SAI. Awarded the Dronacharya in 2015, Naval is currently guiding javelin thrower Sachin Yadav who finished fourth at last year's World Championships.

Arjuna awardee and 2010 Asian Para Games gold medallist Jagseer Singh told TOI that he was witness to Naval Singh's rant against Deepa Malik in 2012. "I was there when the coach abused Deepa Malik in the run-up to the 2012 Paralympics. I heard that complaints had gone to the officials but nothing happened," Jagseer told TOI.

According to sources, the verbal harassment from the coach usually begins after he consumes liquor. "He is a habitual drinker and once he is on a high, he shouts all this. But when he is sober, he is fine. And this drunken outburst is the reason why many athletes left him," they said.

An AFI official said that an informal complaint against Naval was recently settled after the coach accepted the mistake and promised to not repeat it. Sources in SAI indicate that Naval is not employed by the authority, and instead is engaged by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) as part of the National coaching camps.

Zverev battles past Cerundolo

Top seed Alexander Zverev battled back from a set down to beat Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo on Friday and book a spot in the semifinals of the Munich ATP tournament.

The three-time Munich champion won 5-7, 6-0, 6-2 and will take on Italy's Flavio Cobolli on Saturday for a place in the final. Zverev burst out of the blocks and served for a 5-1 lead in the opening set but appeared to suddenly lose his rhythm, winning just one more game as Cerundolo powered back to take the opening set.

TENNIS WRAP

As the second set began, and with the support of the home crowd, the 28-year-old found his form as swiftly as he had lost it, bouncing back to win the final two sets while dropping just two games.

AP

JUBILANT: Ben Shelton

On the other side of the draw, American second seed Ben Shelton overcame Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca to keep hopes of a 2025 Munich final rematch with Zverev alive. Shelton, the world number six, won 6-3, 3-6, 6-3. Earlier, Cobolli was the first to book a spot in the final four after he defeated Czech Vit Kopriva 6-3, 6-2.

FILS TAKES OUT MUSETTI

Arthur Fils defeated Lorenzo Musetti 6-3, 6-4 on Friday to reach the Barcelona Open semifinals. Fils will take on Rafael Jodar after he downed Cameron Norrie 6-3, 6-2.

MUCHOVA OUSTS GAUFF

Karolina Muchova broke through for a first win over Coco Gauff on Friday, eliminating the French Open champion 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 in the quarterfinals in Stuttgart. Muchova will face Elina Svitolina, who beat Czech Linda Noskova 7-6 (7/2), 7-5. AFP

Tickner picks four as NZ beat B'desh

Paceman Blair Tickner took four quick wickets as New Zealand held their nerve to beat Bangladesh by 26 runs and take a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series on Friday.

Chasing 248 on a slow surface at the Mirpur stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh lost their last six wickets for just 37 runs and were bowled out for 221 off 48.3 overs. Earlier, Bangladesh bowlers produced a disciplined performance to restrict New Zealand to 247/8 after the visitors opted to bat.

ODI SERIES

Brief scores: New Zealand: 247/8 in 50 overs (Henry Nicholls 68, Will Young 30, Dean Foxcroft 59; Taskin Ahmed 2-50, Shoriful Islam 2-27, Rishad Hossain 2-44) bt **Bangladesh: 221 all out in 48.3 overs** (Saif Hassan 57, Litton Das 46, Towhid Hridoy 55, Afif Hossain 27; Nathan Smith 3-45, Blair Tickner 4-40). AFP

GILL TOPS TIME SHEETS

Chennai: Returning to rally action after a year's break, Gaurav Gill showed no sign of rust as he put in a dominating performance to top the time sheets at the 49th South India Rally here on Friday.

The three-day event is also the second round of the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship and Round one of the FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship. Gill clocked a combined time of two minutes, 51.5 seconds for the two loops of 1.45 kms dirt Super Special Stage to finish 5.1 seconds ahead of his arch rival Karna Kadur in the APRC segment with Mangaluru's Jason Saldanha in third place.

MOTORSPORT

Gill also led the INRC with a 4.1 seconds advantage over local challenger Ritesh Rai, while Kadur is in third position. Gill, with the Srikanth Gowda (Chikkamagaluru) as his co-driver for the first time, gave a near-flawless exhibition of pace, precision and car control at the Madras International Circuit. Bengaluru's Arun Y Mavaji and Arvind Dheerendra topped the INRC 2 and INRC 3 classes, respectively. PTI

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"IT STARTS WITH CREATING THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERY PLAYER FEELS VALUED AND ON THE SAME PAGE. AS A COACH, I'M THERE TO SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE THEM, NOT TO CONTROL THEM. EVEN WHEN THEY FAIL, THEY NEED TO KNOW THAT'S PART OF THE GAME."
—Ricky Ponting | PBKS coach

GILL TAKES TITANS HOME

Skipper's Composed 86 Helps Team Chase Down 181; Green's 79 In Vain As Victory Eludes Knights Again

Sabu.Cherian@timesofindia.com

Ahmedabad: Often bracketed among batters whose strike rates don't align with the demands of modern-day T20 batting, Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill (86 off 50b; 8x4, 4x6) showed his ball-striking abilities to notch up a third consecutive half-century and help the hosts seal a five-wicket triumph over winless Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Narendra Modi Stadium here.

The pursuit of 181 began in a commanding fashion for the Titans, who raced to 71/1 by the end of the Powerplay. Gill and B Sai Sudharsan (22) went after left-arm spinner Anukul Roy in his first over, smashing three sixes, to put the Titans chase on track. Despite the loss of his fellow opener, Gill and Jos Buttler (25) took Gujarat to 93/1 after eight overs.

KKR applied the squeeze, forcing Buttler to hole out to Varun Chakaravarthy (2/34), while Washington Sundar (13) failed to get going. Despite Gill's dismissal to an outstanding diving catch by Cameron Green giving KKR a glimmer of hope to pull off an upset, Glenn Phillips (19) and the rest of the batters took the Titans home with a ball to spare.

Prior to this, Green reminded everyone of his white-ball pedigree with a composed yet forceful 79 off 55 balls, studded with seven fours and four sixes. Walking in with KKR in early trouble, the Australian allrounder first absorbed pressure and then took the attack back to Gujarat Titans, dragging his side to 180 at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

The score was competitive but not quite what it could have been. Only three other KKR batters reached double figures — Tim Seifert (19), Rovman Powell (27) and Ramandeep Singh (17) — underlining how solitary Green's effort really was. KKR's decision to bat first misfired almost immediately. Ajinkya Rahane fell first ball, caught by Kagiso Rabada off Mohammed Siraj. Angkrish Raghuvanshi soon followed for eight as Gujarat's new-ball pair tightened the screws.

Seifert threatened briefly with a couple of crisp boundaries but his 19 ended when he picked out Glenn Phillips off Rabada, leaving KKR 37/3 at the end of the Powerplay. Siraj was superb when it came to control and discipline, returning 2/23, while Rabada's heavy lengths and late movement earned him 3/29 and complete command of the opening phase.

The repair began when Powell joined Green. The West Indian briefly shifted momentum with two sixes in a brisk 27 off 20 before holing out to Ashok Sharma, but not before adding 55 for the fourth wicket with Green. From there, Green took over. He reached his fifty off 34 balls, then launched a decisive assault as KKR surged from 59 for 3 at the first strategic timeout to 147 for 5 by the second. Green and Anukul Roy added 60 for the fifth wicket, a stand that seemed to have put a 200-plus total within reach.

Yet Gujarat owned the finish. Roy fell for nine, Rinku Singh managed only one and though Ramandeep struck a lively 17 off 8, wickets kept falling around Green. Ashok chipped in with 2/45 and Prasidh Krishna with 1/32, but the real damage was already done by Gujarat's discipline at the death. Green rescued KKR from collapse. The Titans made sure the rescue stopped well short of being decisive.

ANI

FINE SHOW: Shubman Gill played a captain's knock on Friday

SCOREBOARD

KKR: T Seifert c Phillips b Rabada 19, A Rahane c Rabada b Siraj 0, A Raghuvanshi c Buttler b Rabada 8, C Green c Buttler b Rashid 79, R Powell c Siraj b Ashok 27, A Roy c Buttler b Krishna 9, R Singh c Buttler b Rabada 1, Ramandeep c Siraj b Ashok 17, S Narine c Phillips b Siraj 0, K Tyagi run out Buttler/Krishna 6, V Arora not out 0; **Extras (b4, lb3, w6, nb1) 14; Total (20 ovrs): 180; FoW:** 1-5, 2-21, 3-32, 4-87, 5-147, 6-148, 7-165, 8-166, 9-173, 10-180; **Bowling:** Siraj 4-0-23-2, Rabada 4-0-29-3, Krishna 4-0-32-1, Ashok 4-0-45-2, Rashid 4-0-44-1

GT: Sudharsan c Tyagi b Narine 22, Gill c Green b Arora 86, Buttler c Green b Varun 25, Sundar c Tyagi b Varun 13, Phillips c Rinku b Ramandeep 19, Tewatia (not out) 7, Shahrukh Khan (not out) 3. **Extras: (LB-2 W-4) 6. Total: (for 5 wickets, 19.4 overs) 181. FoW:** 1-57 2-95 3-141 4-158 5-177. **Bowling:** Vaibhav 4-0-35-1, Tyagi 4-0-40-0, Anukul 3-0-37-0, Narine 4-0-28-1, Varun 4-0-34-2, Ramandeep 0.4-0-5-1.

3/29 Kagiso Rabada has produced his best bowling performance in nine innings for GT. —Stats: Rajesh Kumar

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
PBKS	5	4	0	1	1.067	9
RCB	5	4	1	0	1.503	8
RR	5	4	1	0	0.889	8
GT	5	3	2	0	0.018	6
SRH	5	2	3	0	0.576	4
DC	4	2	2	0	0.322	4
LSG	5	2	3	0	-0.804	4
CSK	5	2	3	0	-0.846	4
MI	5	1	4	0	-1.076	2
KKR	6	0	5	1	-1.149	1

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RR MANAGER FINED FOR PHONE USE IN DUGOUT

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Mumbai: Rajasthan Royals manager Romi Bhinder has been fined Rs 1 lakh and issued a warning by the BCCI for using a mobile phone in the dugout during his team's match against RCB in Guwahati on April 10. The punishment has been treated as a first-time offence under the IPL's PMOA (Prevention of Match-fixing, Anti-Corruption and Security) protocol, with no further action taken. As per rules, team officials are allowed to use mobile phones in the dressing room but not in the dugout.

Bhinder, who has been associated with the Royals since the inaugural season in 2008, breached protocol by using his phone outside the designated area. "We noticed photographs of him using a mobile phone in the dugout. On April 12, the ACU issued him a notice under Article 4.1.1 of the BCCI PMOA protocols, asking for a reply within 48 hours. While he responded within the stipulated time, we were not satisfied with his explanation," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told TOI.

"Since this is a first-time offence, a fine of Rs 1 lakh has been imposed under clause 7.42 (a), along with a warning to strictly adhere to the protocols going forward," he added.

Items banned in IPL dugout: Mobile phones & personal electronic devices, smart watches and communication wearables, laptops and tablets (team analysts exempted), non-approved staff, unauthorized recording equipment (cameras, mics, scanners), alcohol or tobacco products, non-approved team communications equipment (walkie-talkies allowed for player support personnel for communication), betting materials/gambling-related items, unauthorized team apparel/commercial merchandise, weapons/ hazardous objects.

Capitals desperate for a turnaround

Delhi Will Hope For A KL Rahul Special At Chinnaswamy Today

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: When KL Rahul walked into the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday evening, it was with his usual swagger but also a quiet sense of homecoming. From security personnel to ground staff, familiar faces paused to greet the homegrown star, who acknowledged them with a smile.

The venue, after all, remains a second home for the Delhi Capitals' senior pro. It's a ground where he honed his craft and one where he will hope to rediscover rhythm after a stop-start campaign so far.

Up against his former side Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Saturday afternoon, Rahul will be eager to make the most of familiar conditions. After a prolific 2025 season in which he amassed 539 runs, the elegant opener has managed just 111 from four outings this year, with a highest score of 92 against Gujarat Titans.

PREVIEW

Few can question his pedigree but consistency has eluded him. RCB, however, know better than most how dangerous Rahul can be if he settles in.

At a venue where 200-plus totals have become the norm, Delhi Capitals will be desperate for a turnaround. The larger challenge, though, lies in halting a rampaging RCB unit that has made the Chinnaswamy a fortress this season.

The surface here can be unforgiving for erring bowlers and Capitals will need a marked improvement from their attack. Skipper Axar Patel and fellow spinner Kuldeep Yadav are yet to find their rhythm while the pace unit has lacked continuity.

Auqib Nabi, who enjoyed a breakthrough domestic season, has featured only once, with Lungi Ngidi, Mukesh Kumar and T Natarajan preferred options so far. On a ground where variations and execution are key, that inconsistency could prove costly.

The struggles are not limited to bowling. Barring the promising Sameer Rizvi, the batting lineup has lacked stability. Experienced campaigners like David Miller, Pathum Nissanka, Nitish Rana and Tristan Stubbs have all blown hot and cold, leaving the side searching for a collective effort. The visitors, however, have had time to regroup. They arrived early in the city from Chennai and have put in the hard yards at the BCCI Centre of Excellence.

For RCB, it has taken more than a decade to turn Chinnaswamy into a stronghold. This season they have been near flawless, winning all three home games in high-scoring encounters. Their campaign, much like last year, has been built on depth and shared responsibility rather than individual brilliance.

While Phil Salt is yet to explode to his full potential, Virat Kohli has already donned the Orange Cap. Tim David's finishing prowess and Devdutt Padikkal's solidity at the top have further strengthened the batting unit. Leading the charge, however, has been skipper Rajat Patidar, who has been in imperious touch, scoring 222 runs in five matches at a strike rate in excess of 200.

"His batting has been unbelievable," Josh Hazlewood said on the eve of the game. "He walks in and can hit the first ball for four or six. He hasn't just maintained momentum, he's taken it to another level, especially in that 7-15 over phase."

RCB, who will don their green jerseys for the fixture, face a fresh challenge in what will be their first day game of the season. But with momentum and form on their side, they will back themselves to extend their dominance.

Syed Asif

ALL SET: Rajat Patidar (left) and Devdutt Padikkal during a training session

Impact role again on the cards for Kohli?

Circumstances Have Forced The Superstar RCB Opener To Embrace The Unfamiliar

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Ahead of RCB's previous outing against LSG, Virat Kohli cut an unusual figure. The superstar opener went through his pre-match routine with his knee strapped, nursing an ankle niggle picked up during the away game against Mumbai Indians. When the team sheet was announced, his name appeared in an unfamiliar column — among the 'Impact' subs.

For a player who thrives on being in the thick of the action, watching from the dugout would have been far from ideal. Yet, Kohli made his presence felt when it mattered, walking in to open the innings during the chase as an Impact Player. It was the first time Kohli was seen in that role. He slipped seamlessly into top gear, scoring 49 off 34 balls to steer the chase. After the win, Kohli revealed the extent of his discomfort. "My knee was a bit sore last game. Even healthwise, I've been under the weather for four or five days," he said.

Not known to be a strong advocate of the 'Impact Player' rule, Kohli nevertheless embraced the role when circumstances demanded it. Given the intensity with which he approaches the game, adapting to such situations may become necessary as the season progresses. Teammate Josh Hazlewood confirmed that Kohli is set to feature against Delhi Capitals on Saturday, though he did not rule out the possibility of him continuing as an 'Impact' sub. "I think he'll definitely play. It's just whether he's right to take the field. It'll be precautionary, and we'll keep using the Impact Player role for as long as he needs to," Hazlewood said.

Highlighting the utility of the rule, the Australian pacer added, "He's probably fortunate we've got that option. A lot of teams use it for someone coming back from injury or carrying a niggle. It's invaluable when your main skill can still contribute."

Hazlewood, however, acknowledged that keeping Kohli away from the field is easier said than done. "Obviously I'd love to have him on the field. He's got great energy, he's one of our best fielders. But knowing him, he's not a great watcher of cricket. He loves to be out there and having an impact. I think he'll be with the physios trying to get back out there."

WEATHER 34°C

5 games won by DC out of 13 played against RCB between 2008-2025 at the Chinnaswamy Stadium. One game failed to produce a result.

Syed Asif

ROOM FOR REINVENTION: Kohli at nets on Friday

BORDER SET FOR MAIDEN IPL OUTING AT CHINNASWAMY

There will be an IPL debut of a rather special kind at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday afternoon when Australia's batting legend Allan Border sits down to watch his first-ever IPL match. Border last visited the venue as captain of the Australian side during the World Series on Oct 27, 1989, an ODI that India won by three wickets. More than three decades later, the 70-year-old returns, this time as a spectator. He has been invited by fellow legend and close friend Sunil Gavaskar. Border is also expected to attend matches in Kolkata and Mumbai during his visit.

In Bengaluru, the former Australian captain will be hosted by the Karnataka State Cricket Association. "We're delighted to have the legendary Allan Border and host him for his first IPL experience. When Sunny bhai reached out, we told him it's an honour for us to host Border. It's a wonderful initiative by Sunny bhai to invite his friend for the IPL experience," KSCA president and former India pacer Venkatesh Prasad told TOI. Border, who arrived in the city on Friday evening, is accompanied by his son Dene.

— Manuja Veerappa

Can Hinge & Hussain repeat the magic?

Upbeat Sunrisers Run Into Super Kings Today

Shiva.Gundra@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: The morale in Sunrisers Hyderabad's dugout is high ahead of Saturday's clash against Chennai Super Kings in the southern derby.

Riding on sensational debuts of pacers Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain, SRH beat high-flying Rajasthan Royals by 57 runs, a win that should hold them in good stead.

In the absence of Pat Cummins, SRH's bowling was considered the weak link. The lacklustre performances of the experienced duo of Jaydev Unadkat and Harshal Patel forced them to go in for Hinge and Hussain. Also, spinners Shivang Kumar and Harsh Dubey are slowly finding rhythm.

In batting, 'Travishek' — Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma — though struggling for consistency, can take apart any bowling attack on their day.

Both of them added 105 runs in the Powerplay against Punjab Kings. But Abhishek is yet to score a run at home after for consecutive ducks against LSG and RR.

On the other hand, Super Kings, who began with three defeats, recorded back-to-back wins with all-round performances. While the form of their captain Ruturaj Gaikwad still a concern, Sanju Samson finally announced his arrival with a century and a masterful 48 in the last two matches. Though the crowd will miss MS Dhoni in action, fireworks are guaranteed.

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HEAD TO HEAD

SRH	CSK
7	15

LAST FIVE MATCHES
SRH W L L W L
CSK W W L L L

VENUE: HYDERABAD
WEATHER 32°C
ODDS SRH 8/10 | CSK 12/10

HIGHEST BATTING AVERAGE IN SUCCESSFUL CHASES IN THE IPL SINCE 2024*

(*Minimum qualification: 500 runs; stats before start of Friday's GT-KKR game)

3 batters have scored hundreds in matches involving these two teams — 1 each by Brendon McCullum (2015), Ambati Rayudu (2018) and Shane Watson (2018), all from CSK.

6 matches won by CSK out of he last 9 played against SRH between Oct 13, 2020-April 25, 2025.

4 runs, margin of triumph for CSK (182/3) vs SRH (178-6) in Hyderabad on April 18, 2018, the narrowest win in matches involving the two teams. —Stats: Rajesh Kumar

MI freefall worries coach Mahela

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Mumbai: Mahela Jayawardene did his best to defend his side, but deep down the Mumbai Indians coach knows the season is slipping away rapidly. Defeat to Punjab Kings was MI's fourth on the trot, a result Jayawardene attributed to poor bowling at crucial moments. On a surface where the PBKS bowlers extracted movement with the new ball, MI were put on the back foot immediately after Deepak Chahar's opening over went for 21 runs.

"We lost momentum at the back end while batting and then didn't set the tone with the ball. That first over hurt us a lot," Jayawardene said, "If we had controlled that phase, especially the first 10 overs before the dew set in and taken a few wickets, it could have been a different game. One of the pillars of MI's title-winning campaigns has been their ability to dominate the Powerplay with the ball. That has deserted them this season. They conceded 78/1 against KKR, restricted Delhi Capitals to 42/2 before losing control in the middle overs, leaked 59 in a shortened Powerplay against Rajasthan Royals, gave away 71 runs to RCB and were taken for 62/2 by PBKS on Thursday.

POINTS TO PONDER: Jayawardene (left) with Mhambrey and Tendulkar

Jasprit Bumrah, meanwhile, has gone wicketless for five matches in a row, though Jayawardene was quick to defend his spearhead. "Bumrah is bowling well. We're just not putting pressure in the Powerplay. Batters know they don't need to take too many risks against him. As a unit, we've lacked penetration across surfaces."

He added that Bumrah has also been short on luck. "If someone else is taking wickets, Bumrah gets match-ups he's very comfortable with. He bowled some good balls to Shreyas initially, but didn't get rewards.

Despite a respectable economy rate of 8.63, Bumrah's impact has been blunted by the lack of support from the other pacers. Hardik Pandya faces a tactical dilemma in maximising Bumrah's 24 balls. The right-arm pacer conceded just 14 runs in two Powerplay overs, but by the time he returned in the 13th, Shreyas Iyer and Prabhsimran Singh were well set, and Bumrah went for 16 on a flat deck. Pandya (ER 11.16), Trent Boult (12.22), Deepak Chahar (13.38) and Shardul Thakur (13.57) have all struggled to contain runs.

MI cautious over Rohit's return

Given Rohit Sharma's history of hamstring injuries, MI are taking a cautious approach. "Ro started running yesterday," Jayawardene said. "We'll take it day by day. It's nothing serious, but it's early in the season, and we don't want to push him," said the Sri Lankan.

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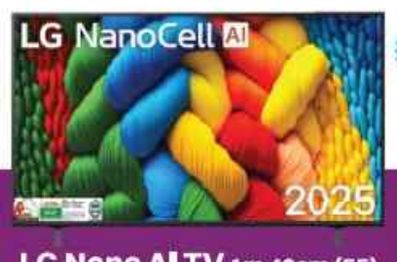

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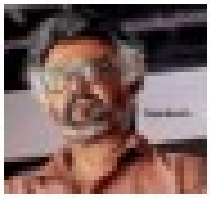

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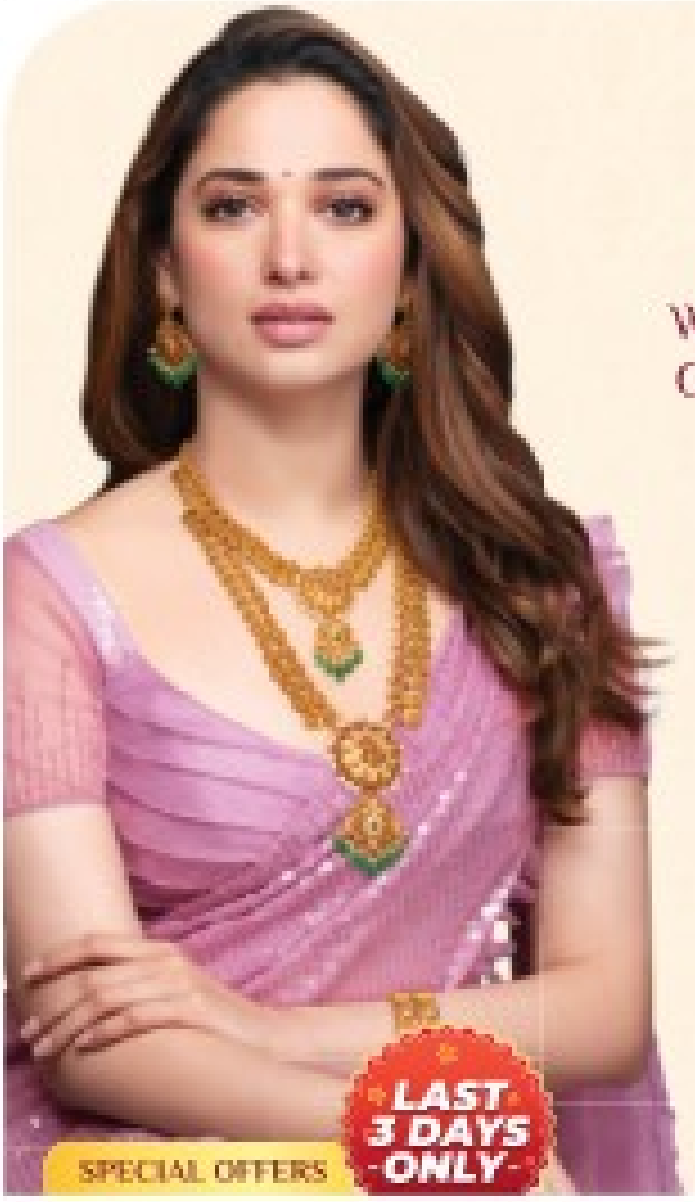

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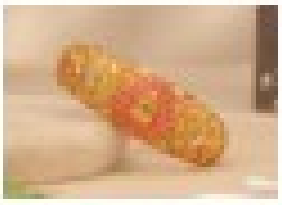

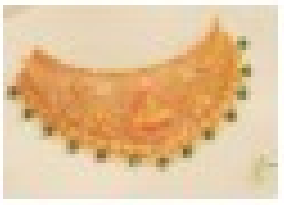

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Tehran May Part With Its Uranium For 'Rewards'

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The Hormuz horror that was choking energy supplies to much of the world is ending following a deal between Washington and Tehran that US President Donald Trump said is imminent.

Contours of the deal — said to involve Iran giving up its enriched uranium in return for unspecified rewards, including financial incentives — are still sketchy. But both Washington and Tehran, in their own way, announced the strait is now open.

In a barrage of social media posts, Trump, latching on to an announcement by the Iranian foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, said "the Strait of Iran is fully open and ready for full passage", adding "Iran has agreed to never close the Strait of Hormuz again. It will no longer be used as a weapon against the World!"

FULL COVERAGE: P 17-19

▶What strait opening means for Indian cos, P 19

▶'Agreed to never close', P 17

US PRESIDENT INDICATES DIRECT TALKS THIS WEEKEND

Women stand beside a heavy machine gun during a rally dubbed 'sacrificed girls' in Tehran Friday

- Donald Trump indicates the 2nd round of direct US-Iran talks could happen this weekend. **'The Iranians want to meet.** They want to make a deal,' US president tells news outlet Axios. Blockade on Iranian ships and ports 'will remain in full force' until Tehran reaches a deal
- **Brent crude drops 10.4% to $89** per barrel, but remains above its $70 price from before war
- US markets open sharply higher with **Dow Jones up over 2%** while **S&P 500 up 1.3%** and Nasdaq Composite up 1.6%
- India welcomes Israel-Lebanon ceasefire. India **attended France and UK-chaired meeting of around 40 countries** to discuss a post-war mission to restore freedom of navigation
- At least **8 oil tankers raced towards Strait of Hormuz** in the hours after Iran foreign minister said waterway was fully open to shipping

'Won't leave': Desi student lives alone in 9-storey bldg

Kalyan.Das@timesofindia.com

Even after nearly all Indian medical students returned from Iran following the outbreak of war, one 22-year-old youth from Kashmir chose to stay back, saying he could not leave the country "when it is in distress". Now living alone in a nine-storey hostel in Ahvaz after the last remaining Indian students left, Asif Gulzar said he was safe and had made the decision with his family's support.

Gulzar, a third-semester MBBS student at Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences in Khuzestan province, told **TOI**, "I am here by choice and I am safe. I realised I cannot leave Iran when it is under attack."

A kitchen in the empty hostel

▶Can't take easy option, P 13

Indian refiners pay in yuan for Iranian crude

Indian refiners used the one-month window provided by a temporary US sanctions waiver and purchased Iranian oil and settled payments in Chinese yuan. For the Iranian crude, the payment was made by ICICI Bank through its branch in Shanghai. Iran insists on payment in Chinese yuan to bypass US-led financial sanctions that restrict its access to the dollar-dominated global banking system, prompting IOC and RIL to opt for this. **P 19**

SC nixes Khera's plea for interim protection

SC Friday refused Congress's Pawan Khera's plea for interim protection from arrest till Tuesday and asked him to seek anticipatory bail from court in Assam where an FIR against him has been lodged. **P 15**

72 hrs to deadline, no addition in Bengal rolls

Kolkata: Three days before SC's deadline to add voters cleared by SIR tribunals, Election Commission is yet to publish the name of a single person whose voting right has been reinstated and who can participate in the first phase of Bengal polls on April 23, **reports Kaushik Pradhan.**

Over 27 lakh people were excluded from voters' list after judicial adjudication, which was the last stage of SIR of electoral rolls that began in Nov 2025. Their fate as voters now depends on verdict of 19 appellate tribunals. The Bengal CEO said EC was trying to launch the dashboard for tribunals' orders as soon as possible.

▶'Disposed 200 cases', P 15

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GEMS MISSING FROM INDIA'S TOURISM MAP

Away from the popular tourist and pilgrimage circuit are sites that represent the finest traditions of Indian architecture and craftsmanship. On World Heritage Day, here's a look at some stunners

Dhamnar Dharmrajeshwar Temple in MP's Mandsaur

Arjun Kumar

In the tourism landscape of any country, there are 'tourist destinations' and 'super attractions'. The latter hold a magnetic draw for visitors. In India, with 44 sites having Unesco World Heritage status — not to speak of the temples of Tirupati, Ayodhya, the Four 'Dhams' and more — the list of super attractions runs long.

Lost in the sharp lights focused on these super sites are countless other places that are outstanding destinations but remain in the shadows. Today, on World Heritage Day, we present a set of such examples of Indian built heritage and architecture, which are as striking as they are obscure:

❶ Dhamnar Dharmrajeshwar Temple, Chandwasa (Mandsaur, MP)

While Ujjain draws the pilgrims, Dhamnar gets the heritage buffs. Sometime in the 8th century, workmen scooped out a huge volume of hill rock and the part left standing was carved into a monolithic, subterranean temple. This building style is similar to Ellora's Kailasha Temple. The Dharmarajeshwar is accessed via a long passage and opens into a space that combines Shaivite, Vaishnav and Shakti traditions. Surprisingly, even during the wet season, the place is not inundated. Perhaps ancient builders understood drainage better than their modern counterparts.

❷ Rock cut icons, Kauwa Dol (Jehanabad, Bihar)

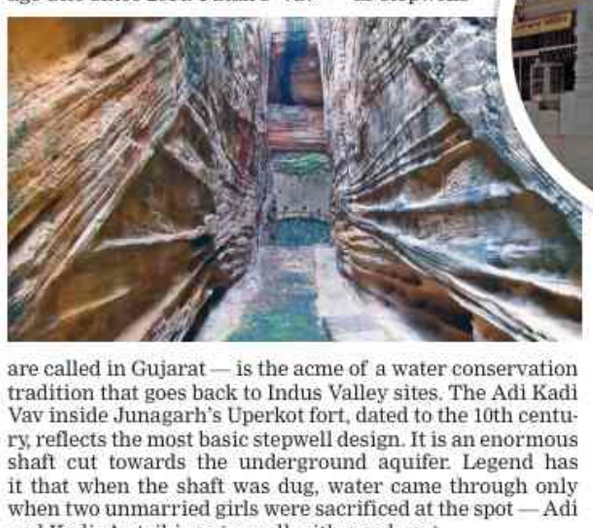
A rocky hill named after a crow, Kauwa Dol is close to the Mauryan-era Barabar and Nagarjuni Caves and a short drive from the pilgrim town of Bodh Gaya. Sculpted all around its base are depictions of Shiva, Yoginis, Durga, Ganesha, while there are also the remains of a Buddhist monastery. A nearby village has carved pillars incorporated into dwellings. Moving around the hill feels like circumambulation of a sacred shrine. There are carved rocks buried in mud. The site is undated, though the iconography looks to be from the 8-10th centuries.

❸ Narasimha, Dudhai (Lalitpur, UP)

In a land that still reverberates to the ballads of Alha & Udal and tales of Rani Laxmibai, a forest road leads to the village of Dudhai. On its outskirts, carved on rock, is India's answer to Bamiyan's Buddhas — in the form of a colossal representation of Narasimha, the half-man & half-lion incarnation of Vishnu. Complete with a demon across its thighs, being ripped apart while the lion face is bared in a snarl. Some experts date this to the 9-11th century Chandella period, though it may be older.

❹ Adi Kadi Vav, Uperkot (Junagarh, Gujarat)

The Rani-ki-vav at Patan has been a World Heritage Site since 2014. Patan's 'vav' — as stepwells are called in Gujarat — is the acme of a water conservation tradition that goes back to Indus Valley sites. The Adi Kadi Vav inside Junagarh's Uperkot fort, dated to the 10th century, reflects the most basic stepwell design. It is an enormous shaft cut towards the underground aquifer. Legend has it that when the shaft was dug, water came through only when two unmarried girls were sacrificed at the spot — Adi and Kadi. A striking stepwell with a sad past.



❺ Lakshmidevi Temple, Doddagaddavalli (Hassan, Karnataka)

In 2023, the Hoysala dynasty-built temples in Belur, Halebidu, and Somanathapura achieved World Heritage tags. Those three sites, however, are only the tip of a very large iceberg, with almost every hamlet in Hassan and Tumakuru districts being home to an intricately carved Hoysala shrine. The Lakshmidevi Temple is unique in having four sanctums built around a central hall, each topped by a tower. Dating to 1113 CE, its main sanctum's gateway is flanked by two demonic figures. Shockingly, a Mahakali idol here was desecrated in 2020, underlining its vulnerability.

❻ Yogini Temple, Hirapur (Bhubaneswar, Odisha)

While Puri's Jagannath Temple and Konark's Sun Temple are larger than life, Hirapur's small Yogini shrine holds its own with a unique design. Flourishing in a belt across central India between 9th and 12th centuries CE, the Yogini shrines were usually roofless, circular and located in remote places. Tantric practices were also followed. The Hirapur shrine, conforming to the pattern, stands out as a rare place where the Yogini idols are still in place, embedded into the circular wall. The goddesses are beautifully depicted as full-bodied women, each wielding her own weapon and divine creature as vehicle.

❼ Rajiv Lochan & Ramchandra Temples, Rajim (Gariaband, Chhattisgarh)

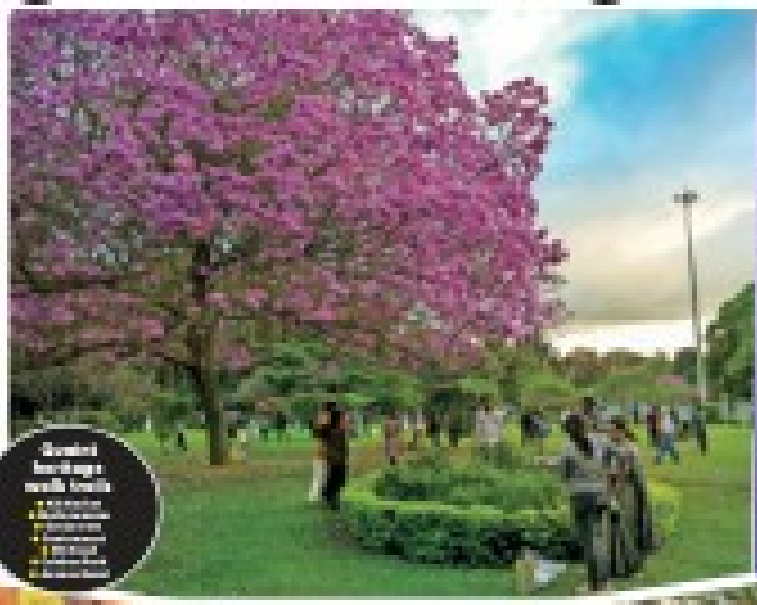
In a state that celebrates the distinct red brick design of Sirpur's Laxman Temple, the temple complex at Rajim is seen more as a pilgrim destination. While Alexander Cunningham of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) dated the temples as being about 400 years old, careful probing has revealed that numerous parts may be from 7-8th century, too. Pillars built into new walls, temple columns, and icons that now form gateways to shrines are a thousand years older than the current temples. There is perhaps no better way to keep ancient remains relevant in current times.

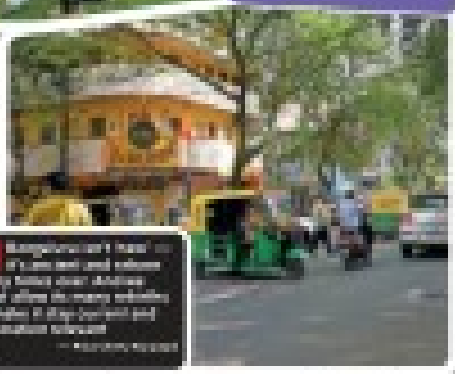
❽ Hunting Lodge, Viratnagar (Behror-Kotputli, Rajasthan)

For medieval rulers, the best way to demonstrate martial prowess — without going to war — was hunting. And they took their creature comforts seriously even in the wild, which is why some of their hunting lodges resemble palaces. One such structure was built in the 17th century by Raja Man Singh Kachwaha, the ruler of Amer (now Jaipur) at Viratnagar. From inside, the place is a gallery of medieval art, its walls and ceilings depicting court scenes and mythological events. From geometric and floral patterns to Krishna and his gopis, from a Narasimha to a Durga astride her lion, to ascetics and more, the king gave his artists an open canvas here.

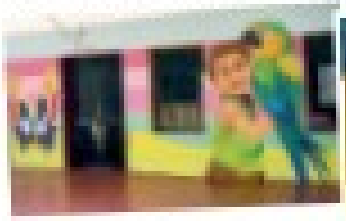
The writer is a heritage enthusiast

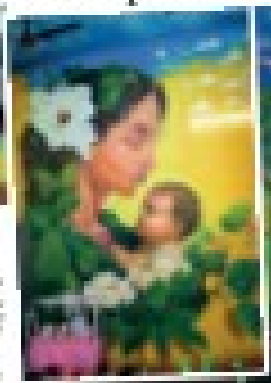
Rediscovering history through Bengaluru's heritage trails





A colourful world of hope inside the Bengaluru Central Prison





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